SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Centre has appointed noted lyricist and communications expert Prasoon Joshi as chairman of Prasar Bharati, filling a key vacancy at the public broadcaster that has been without a full-time head since Dec, P 13

Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk defeats Russian Mirra Andreeva 6-3, 7-5 to clinch the Madrid Open women's title. This is Kostyuk's first WTA masters 1000 title, P 20

A Chinese court rules that companies can't terminate employees just to replace them with AI systems, as authorities juggle the need to stabilise domestic labour market with a global race to develop AI tech, P 18

Harmanpreet Kaur will lead India for the fifth time in the women's T20 World Cup, selectors say while announcing a squad that will seek India's first women's T20 WC title, P 19

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Balasubramaniam from Mys named in NITI think tank

Govt on Saturday appointed scholar-author R Balasubramaniam as full-time NITI Aayog member. A physician, he is founder of Mysuru-based Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement and Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement. P15

France beat India 3-0 in Thomas Cup semifinals

India's hopes of reclaiming the title ended in disappointment as they went down 0-3 to France in the semifinals of Thomas Cup, settling for a bronze medal. The absence of Lakshya Sen proved costly as H S Prannoy joined Ayush Shetty and Kidambi Srikanth in defeat, as India failed to win a single game in a one-sided contest. P 20

Vinay Kulkarni disqualified as MLA

Karnataka Assembly Saturday disqualified Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni after his conviction for BJP functionary Yogeesh Gouda's murder. The development creates a fresh vacancy in the assembly, setting the stage for another bypoll in Dharwad constituency. P 4

Former chairman of KPSC acquitted

Nearly three decades after the KPSC recruitment row sparked a political storm, a Bengaluru court closed the case, acquitting former KPSC chairman HN Krishna and five others, citing lack of evidence in the 1998 gazetted probationers selection case. P 4

2 FIRs filed against defector Punjab MP?

Punjab police are believed to have filed two FIRs against RS MP Sandeep Pathak, who switched from AAP to BJP a week ago along with 6 others. While sources close to govt confirmed the FIRs, no statement on the nature of allegations was issued by police. P13

Delhi judge dead; suicide suspected

Judge Aman Sharma, 35, died Saturday in suspected suicide at his Delhi house. His family alerted police that he had locked himself in the bathroom, following which he was found unresponsive. He was declared dead on arrival at hospital. P14

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Both central, state officers at counting centres, EC tells SC

TMC Plea Nixed; SC To EC: Go By Apr 13 Circular

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Protest by voters in Falta against TMC candidate Jahangir Khan in South 24 Parganas on Saturday. EC has ordered re-election

New Delhi: Refuting the allegation of Trinamool Congress that only central govt employees would be deployed as counting supervisors and assistants, Election Commission on Saturday told Supreme Court that one from central govt and other from state govt would be given the charge of two posts to maintain balance, convincing the court that there was no need for judicial interference in the counting process scheduled for May 4.

In a special hearing as counting is after just two days, a bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Joymalya Bagchi dismissed TMC's petition, which alleged that allowing only central govt employees at the counting tables would undermine the neutrality of the counting process. The bench said EC can choose the counting personnel as per its April 13 circular.

Senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, appearing for EC, said that the party's apprehension is misplaced and baseless. He said that if a central govt employee is appointed as counting supervisor then counting assistant would be a state govt employee or vice-versa, a pattern followed in other elections also.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for TMC, told SC it was agreeable if employees of both the Centre and state are involved and it should be followed in true spirit.

▶9 days after polling, TN final turnout data out, P 11

▶No further orders, P 10

EC scraps Falta election, orders repolling May 21

Bengal's electoral outcome will now be decided on 293 seats after EC cancelled Saturday the April 29 polling in south Kolkata's Falta constituency, citing "electoral offences and subversion of the democratic process". A repoll has been scheduled for May 21, with counting on May 24, report **Kaushik Pradhan, Dwaipayan Ghosh & Debashis Konar**.

This is first time in Bengal where a full assembly constituency will go to the polls after the declaration of results. In India, only Bihar had the precedence. EC said an inquiry into complaints found widespread tampering of EVMs at multiple booths.

▶86.9% turnout in repoll in 15 booths of 2 seats, P 10

▶ Villagers allege threat, P 10

Trump orders 5k troops out of Germany after Merz clash

Move A Message To Nato Allies Opposing Prez

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: In a move steeped in geopolitical tension and personal irony, US President Donald Trump, whose grandfather emigrated from Germany, giving him one of the closest generational ties to the country of any modern American leader, has ordered the withdrawal of roughly 5,000 American troops from Germany after a public clash with Chancellor Friedrich Merz over Washington's conduct of the war in Iran.

The Pentagon said the drawdown would be completed over six to 12 months following what it described as a "thorough review" of US force posture in Europe.

But officials on both sides of the Atlantic acknowledge the timing is anything but routine. It follows Merz's unusually blunt criticism of the US campaign, in which he said Washington had entered the conflict "without any strategy whatsoever" and suggested Iran was outmanoeuvring and humiliating the US diplomatically.

US officials called the remarks "inappropriate and unhelpful", suggesting the drawdown order was a punitive measure to send a message to Nato partners who are not measuring up to Trump's expectations.

FULL COVERAGE: P 18

▶Hub of Europe ops, P 18

US AIRLINE SHUT

- **Low-cost US carrier Spirit Airlines says all of its flights have been cancelled as it starts an 'orderly wind-down of ops'**, citing spiking fuel prices recently as key factor
- **Trump says US Navy is acting 'like pirates'** as he describes an op seizing a ship amid tit-for-tat US blockade of Iranian ports
- **US clears expedited $9bn arms sales** to Israel, Kuwait, Qatar and UAE, bypassing a congressional review
- **Russian, Iranian FMs talk** on freedom of navigation, Iran's N-programme P 18

Iran: Ball in US's court, but ready for talks or war

Tehran: Iran said Saturday that it was up to the US whether to pursue a negotiated settlement or to return to open war, but that Tehran was ready for either outcome.

"Now the ball is in the US's court to choose the path of diplomacy or the continuation of a confrontational approach," deputy foreign minister Kazem Gharibabadi told diplomats in Tehran, according to state broadcaster IRIB. "Iran, with the aim of securing its national interests and security, is prepared for both paths," he said.

On Saturday, Mohd Jafar Asadi, a senior figure in Iranian military's central command, said "a renewed conflict between Iran and the US is likely", in quotes published by Iran's Fars news agency. "Evidence has shown the US isn't committed to any promises or agreements," he added.

▶'Permanent end...', P 18

Why biggest 'winners' in these polls may not even be political parties

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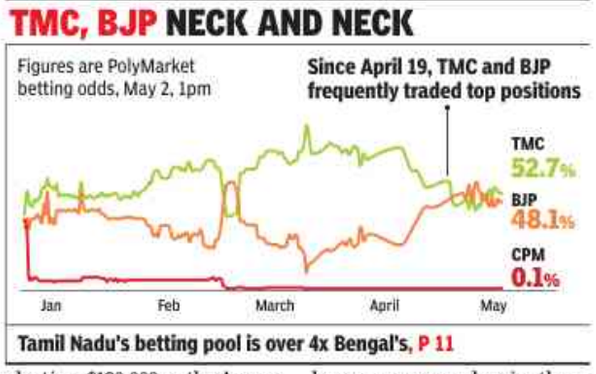
When the assembly election results are declared on Monday, at least $26 million — almost Rs 247 crore — will be paid out to those who managed to predict the winners correctly on Polymarket, the American prediction market platform.

The bets opened in Dec last year and picked up pace as results draw closer.

As of Saturday, the pool is almost entirely driven by bets on the Tamil Nadu results. More than $20m is to be paid out when its results are declared. There's more than $5m riding on the West Bengal election, almost $400,000 on the Kerala election, $180,000 on the Assam election, and almost $19,000 on the Puducherry election.

And what do they predict? For Tamil Nadu, odds are overwhelmingly in favour of DMK (88%). For Bengal, TMC has a narrow edge in these bets (53%). In Kerala, most of the money is on Congress (75%). In Assam, the money is almost entirely on BJP (98%).

TMC, BJP NECK AND NECK



Tamil Nadu's betting pool is over 4x Bengal's, P 11

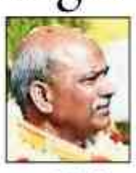
▶Prediction platforms, P 11

FDI rules eased for cos with 10% Chinese holding

India has eased FDI rules, affecting investments from China. From May 1, firms with up to 10% Chinese ownership can invest automatically, though China-registered entities still need nod. It has also allowed 100% FDI in insurance businesses, while LIC gets only 20% automatic-route foreign investment. P14

3 yrs on, Sringeri recount confirms Cong MLA's win; margin increases by 2 votes

Ranjit Kandya | TNN



Chikkamagaluru: Nearly three years after 2023 Karnataka assembly polls, Congress MLA **T D Rajegowda** was officially declared the winner from Sringeri constituency Saturday, following a high court-ordered recount of postal ballots that ended a prolonged legal dispute with BJP candidate D N Jeevaraj.

Rajegowda had originally won the election by a wafer-thin margin of 201 votes, after 279 of the 1,822 postal ballots were rejected. Challenging this, Jeevaraj moved court, leading to a legal battle that continued until April 6, 2026, when Karnataka high court ordered a recount of the postal ballots. At the end of the recount, Rajegowda's victory margin increased by two votes: from 201 to 203.

The recount was conducted at IDSG College in Chikkamagaluru under the supervision of election officer Gaurav Shetty and six assistant officers, in the presence of the agents of the two candidates.

▶Rejected ballots, P 5

In Gujarat, parents hire bouncers to guard their screen-addict teenagers

Times News Network

Ahmedabad: Parents of a 16-year-old girl in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, have hired four bouncers in two shifts to guard her 24x7, spending approximately Rs 65,000 a month. The teenager, according to doctors, had become severely addicted to her phone and social media and became violent whenever her device was taken away.

Psychiatrist Dr Mrugesh Vaishnav said the girl was obsessed with a photo-sharing platform, frequently posting pictures and interacting with strangers online. Her parents grew alarmed when she began sneaking out to meet people she had befriended on social media. When they tried to take her phone, she reacted with aggression, throwing household appliances, like TV and microwave, from their high-rise apartment, and attacking her mother.

"Along with medication, enforced control became a necessity," Vaishnav said. The girl's mother said the family had been paying for bouncers for the past few months as part of her de-addiction process. Many families are now hiring security personnel to watch their teenage children struggling with screen addictions.

▶Behavioural issues, P 15

Comed-K allots out-of-state test centres to many who opted K'taka

Bengaluru: Several candidates appearing for the Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (Comed-K) 2026 entrance exam, scheduled for May 9, were allotted centres in neighbouring states despite opting for locations within Karnataka.

The issue surfaced Saturday after hall tickets were released, with students reporting allocations in cities like Chennai and Hyderabad instead of preferences like Bengaluru and Mysuru. Some also said they had specifically chosen Karnataka centres during registration.

Comed-K officials said around 2,800 candidates who applied late could not be accommodated in centres of their choice.

▶Students warned, P 3

Phone sirens startle millions as govt rolls out real-time warning system

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Phones shrieked. shrieked. Screens flashed. A commuter lunged for an emergency chain. Theatre audiences froze. Patients gripped chairs. With tensions in West Asia already on edge, many feared the worst as confusion swept cities — before relief set in minutes later.

Millions of users across India got a piercing "Extremely Severe Alert" around 11.40am Saturday, followed by a repeat minutes later — part of a nationwide test of a new cell broadcast-based disaster warning system. The message was blunt: no action required.

However, the reaction was anything but. At a children's play in Mumbai's Prithvi Theatre, about 40 phones rang in unison, startling families queued for a performance. On a suburban train, one passenger tried to pull an emergency chain before others intervened.

134BN ALERTS IN DIFF LANGUAGES

- Officials say system has enabled more than 134bn SMS alerts in multiple languages for weather & disaster warnings
- **Sat's drill aimed to test reach, speed & public response.** However, **not all devices got alerts**, highlighting gaps
- 'We were worried at first, then realised it was a test. It's a good move, but **test msgs must be clearly marked,'** says a Delhiite

▶In hospitals, P 15

US tourist rape: Kodagu homestay owner gets bail

Mysuru/Madikeri: A court in Kodagu on Saturday granted bail to P A Ponnappa aka Vishal, owner of the Kutta homestay where a US tourist was allegedly raped during her stay last month.

Vishal, charged with attempting to suppress the incident, was arrested on April 18 along with Vrijesh, a cook at the homestay who was accused of raping the American guest. Both had been initially remanded in judicial custody.

Sources said Vrijesh's advocate is likely to approach the court with his bail plea on Monday.

▶Denies allegations, P 5

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- Home ownership
- Number of rooms

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Bangalore Times

The Academy revamps rules

AI in, out 5 festival films get in

International Feature category to have multiple entries per country; festival rules remain eligibility

A complete crackdown on AI

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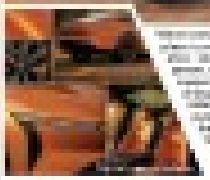
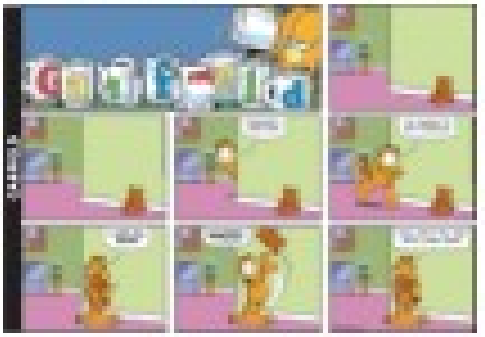
Spears leaves rehab, feels 'positive' amid DUI charge

B

Wired no more: EVs shimmer in metallic hues





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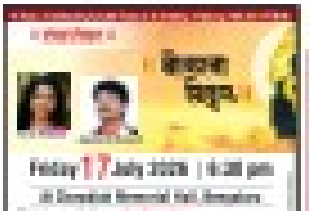

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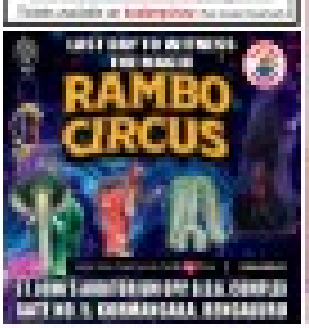

Dust refuses to settle as Bengaluru's ₹613cr sweeper plan finds few takers

Tender Delays Stall Machine Procurement

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File photo

DIRT TRAIL: Mechanised road sweepers are stuck in limbo, leaving the city to battle dust with inadequate, ageing cleaning machinery

Bengaluru: With summer heat intensifying across the city despite sudden evening showers, dust has emerged as a major concern for commuters and residents. Six months after deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar announced that Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) would rent 56 mechanised sweeping machines at a cost of Rs 613 crore, no new machine has been deployed on the ground.

All five city corporations were instructed to float tednders and procure the machines on rent, with the total cost divided among them. However, the process remains stuck in the tendering stage, and machines are unlikely to be procured anytime soon.

Inputs from Bengaluru West, East, Central, South and North corporations indicate that tenders have run into multiple hurdles. In West, only one bidder participated, and officials are exploring options to attract more bidders. In Central, the first round of bidding saw no participants, prompting authorities to reissue the tender.

In East, the tender process is still at technical evaluation stage. North corporation, meanwhile, has failed to attract bidders even in its second attempt and is preparing to issue a third tender.

"We have very clear guidelines on how the tender should work, and we can't compromise on them. That is the reason we are proceeding with a third tender call," said Pommala Sunil Kumar, commissioner of Bengaluru North City Corporation.

South corporation has managed to get through the tender, and the process is in the final stages, but the corporation is yet to reveal details of how many machines it will be renting.

Inadequate & outdated

All five city corporations continue to rely on their limited and ageing fleet of cleaning machines. West corporation has only two machines — one truck-mounted and one self-propelled — in use, which cover select road stretches on a rotational basis.

Central corporation has one machine per assembly constituency, totalling five. "These are clearly insufficient, and their condition is not fit to handle the dust and dug-up silt accumulated on the roads. While we recognise this as a serious issue, we had to recall the tender because of zero participation," said Daljeet Kumar, additional commissioner.

The situation is more challenging in east Bengaluru, where ongoing drain and footpath works have led to increased silt accumulation. "We're operating with old sweeping machines, and have got one new one through CSR funding," said Lokhande Snehal, additional commissioner.

North corporation has procured 33 mini-sweeping machines and 15 blowing machines at a cost of Rs 10 lakh. "We are managing with these machines, but they are not sufficient. We also have four old mechanical sweepers, which are functional but not efficient. It is becoming difficult to effectively clean the roads," an official said.

Maheshwar Rao, GBA chief commissioner, said the push for mechanised sweeping was also aimed at ensuring worker safety. "We do not want pourakarmikas to manually clean arterial roads, as it is risky. While corporations are handling tenders individually, we are hopeful that machines will be deployed soon," he said.

Dust allergy cases rise as AQI worsens across city

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Bengaluru: The city has witnessed a sharp rise in dust-related allergies and respiratory illnesses over the past few weeks, with doctors attributing the spike to increased construction activity, dry weather, and worsening air quality.

In many parts of the city, the Air Quality Index (AQI) has crossed 100, falling in the 'moderate' to 'poor' category. Doctors said this decline in air quality has significantly contributed to the surge in cases.

The increase in infections began in the first half of March as temperatures started rising. "We are witnessing a sharp 20-40% increase in OPD visits mainly related to dust allergies, with some clinics reporting around 30-50 cases per week, depending largely on location. The rise typically begins during late Feb and early March as temperature increases and continues through the entire peak summer," said Dr Shreevathsa Upadhyaya, consultant-internal medicine, Sparsh Hospital, Yelahanka.

Doctors said the most common conditions being reported include allergic rhinitis, asthma flare-ups, allergic conjunctivitis, and upper respiratory tract irritation.

"Common symptoms include runny nose, sneezing, watering of the eyes, wheezing, chest discomfort, dry and non-productive cough, breathing difficulty and skin-related allergies," said Dr Nidhin Mohan, senior consultant, general medicine, Narayana Healthcity.

Explaining the reasons behind the spike, doctors pointed to a combination of environmental factors. "It is largely due to environmental factors like intensified construction activity, road excavation, dry weather and reduced rainfall, which allow dust to remain suspended in the air for longer periods," said Dr Darshana Reddy, medical superintendent, internal medicine & diabetologist, Altius Hospital.

To reduce risk, doctors have recommended some simple measures. "After outdoor exposure, wearing masks and showering are effective in reducing dust-related symptoms... Additional steps include using air purifiers, keeping windows closed during peak dusty hours, and staying well hydrated," said Dr Shreevathsa.

Woman's charred body found in car

The charred body of a middle-aged woman was recovered inside a burnt car near Doddaballapur Saturday evening. Residents saw the car parked near Jinkebachhahalli in flames and a man running away. Before fire tenders and police could douse the fire, the vehicle was gutted. Only during inspection did police come across the body. TNN

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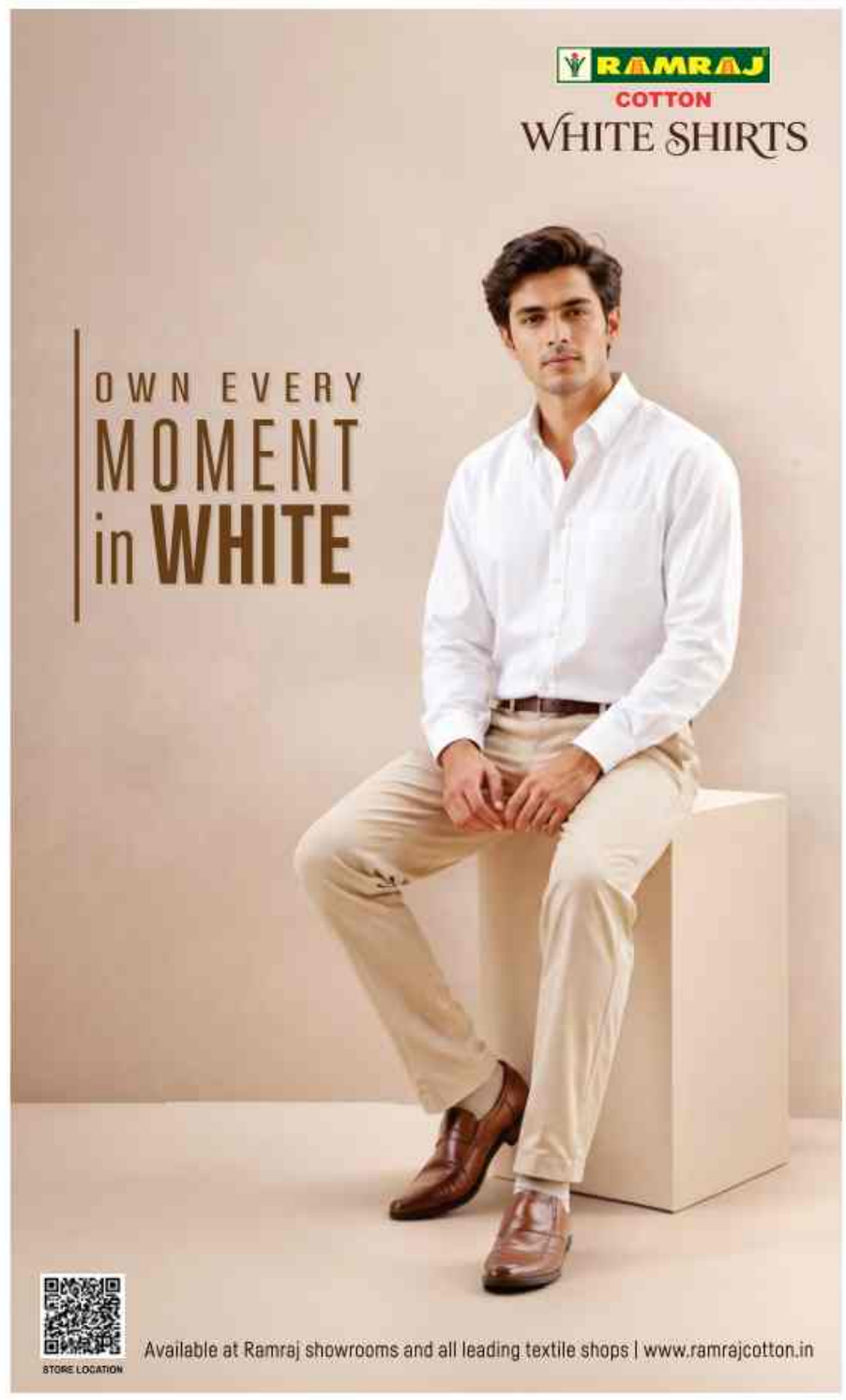

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Students were warned to apply early: Official

▶ Continued From Page

They added that while additional capacity was created in Bengaluru and Mysuru, last-minute applicants were assigned centres in other cities, including Chennai, Hyderabad, and Tirupati.

Students, meanwhile, took to social media to express concern and seek clarification. "I selected Bengaluru and Mysuru as my preferred centres, but was allotted Chennai. The authorities told us that the allotment is final," said a student.

Dr S Kumar, secretary of Comed-K, said candidates were cautioned in Feb to apply early to secure preferred centres. He added that 5,000 additional computer terminals were created in Bengaluru and Mysuru due to high demand. Around 1.4 lakh students have registered for Comed-K, which provides entry to undergraduate engineering programmes in more than 150 private unaided colleges in Karnataka.

Engg lecturer accepts free credit card offer, loses ₹3L

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Posing as staff of Punjab National Bank (PNB) and offering lifetime free (LTF) credit card, cybercriminals recently siphoned off Rs 3 lakh from an engineering college faculty member in the city.

Raju (name changed), a resident of Malleswaram who works with a private autonomous engineering college in KS Layout, lodged a police complaint stating that a conman rang him on April 26, saying he was calling from PNB and could offer LTF credit cards.

"I accepted the offer and the caller sent me a link via text message, asking me to provide details. When I pressed the link, it connected me to a video call and the person on the other side asked me to show my PAN card. Looking at my PAN card, they refused to issue the credit card. However, they said if I showed them my old credit cards, they could issue one," Raju explained.

Not sensing the trap, Raju showed details of three credit cards, issued by three different banks. "Saying they could now issue a card, they asked me to download the 'Punjab National Bank' app sent on WhatsApp. I downloaded it. In a few minutes, I started receiving one-time passwords. Growing suspicious, I disconnected the video call," Raju stated in his complaint.

By then, Rs 1,89,822 was drawn from his Bank of Baroda credit card. "I called the customer helpline of Bank of Baroda, but no one responded. In the next few moments, the miscreants drew Rs 33,097 from the RBL Bank credit card. Next, they transferred Rs 99,999 to my MobiKwik wallet. From there, they drew Rs 74,449 in instalments," Raju explained. Knowing he had fallen prey to cybercriminals, Raju quickly transferred the remaining Rs 25,550 from MobiKwik to another bank account, before blocking all the cards.

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RAIL EQUIPMENT THIEVES NABBED

Bengaluru: A failed robbery bid at a high-security railway yard led to the arrest of two youths who had unknowingly stolen critical train components, mistaking them for scrap. Railway Protection Force (RPF) arrested Santhosh A (21) and Sandeep (21) from Okalipuram nearly a month after the theft.

Initially deterred by tight security at KSR Bengaluru yard, the duo returned on April 11 and picked up what they believed were metal rods. But these were actually crucial railway components: secondary lateral dampers and yaw dampers which are used to stabilise train coaches and ensure smoother rides.

After the theft, they hired an autorickshaw while allegedly intoxicated. RPF traced the vehicle through its registration number; the driver cooperated and was named in the case as per procedure. Following weeks of investigation, the accused were arrested and later led officials to the crime scene and the hidden components.

— Anush S

Pedestrian killed

A speeding ambulance knocked down a 68-year-old man, Srinivas, Friday night. The ambulance was taking a patient back home when the accident occurred around 11pm. The patient was shifted to another ambulance while Srinivas was taken in the ambulance that hit him to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries, police said. TNN

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Rain havoc: Midweek deluge cripples vehicles, mechanics overwhelmed

Anush.S@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The midweek downpour in the city has triggered an unexpected weekend crisis for commuters: a surge in demand for mechanics after hundreds of bikes and cars were crippled by waterlogged streets!

"I've been calling up several garages and checking with local mechanics for the past two days to get my bike up and running, but everyone seems to have got too busy. I've been told to call on Monday," said Rohith Gowda, whose two-wheeler conked out after it was partially submerged in front of UB City Wednesday evening.

GARAGES RUN FULL

He was not the only motorist scrambling for repairs. "My vehicle's brakes are getting jammed; I couldn't take it out today (Saturday) as I didn't want to take chances. I am waiting for my mechanic," said Karan A, a marketing professional and resident of Shantinagar.

Although everything was thrown out of gear following the 11cm rain received in central Bengaluru last Wednesday evening, the situation was compounded by the May 1 Labour Day holiday, with many garages across the city remaining shut, leaving limited options for those in need of assistance.

Pics: TOI

WHEELS HIT: The April 29 downpour resulted in many vehicles, especially two-wheelers, breaking down after waterlogging

In pockets where shops did open, mechanics found themselves overwhelmed. Ayan, who works at a garage on Mother Theresa Road, said the past two days have been unusually hectic. "We've had over 10 vehicles lined up at a time. It's not uncommon after rains, but this time, the numbers were definitely higher," he said, adding that most of the old repair requests were now being cleared.

Mechanics say scooters have taken a bigger hit than motorcycles. Shoaib, another technician in the same area, said the design of gearless scooters makes them more vulnerable. "Their fuel tanks are positioned lower, so even riding over one deep pothole filled with water can lead to seepage into the carburettor. Bikes are relatively safer since their tanks are placed higher," he noted.

Shivajinagar, known for its dense cluster of garages, has become a pressure point. Stephen R, who runs a small workshop there, said the demand has far outstripped capacity. "If we had more space and manpower, we could easily be handling close to 100 vehicles right now. In just two days, we've already repaired around 45," he said, pointing to rows of air filters laid out to dry, a common casualty of water damage.

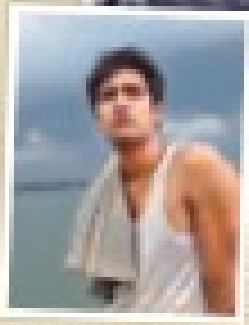
Meanwhile, in Ejipura, another hub for automobile repair, most garages have decided to stay open Sunday to ease the backlog.

My silence was mistaken for weakness: Krishi Thapanda

'Now, I just want to live, not explain'

No gatekeepers for a country's best films

QUICK TAKE



9K gold: A practical shift in modern jewellery

Ex-KPSC chairman freed in 1998 recruitment case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Nearly three decades after Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitment triggered a political storm in Karnataka, a Bengaluru court has brought the curtains down on the controversy. It acquitted former KPSC chairman HN Krishna and five others, citing lack of credible evidence in the 1998 gazetted probationers selection case.

INSUFFICIENT PROOF

First additional chief judicial magistrate Manjunatha KP in his order on April 30 observed that the prosecution failed to establish the charges despite a lengthy trial and voluminous records.

Krishna was named as prime accused, along with two candidates — Asha Parveen and Salma Firdosh — and three KPSC staff members, K Narasimha, P Gopi Krishna and MB Banakaar. The case was registered based on allegations that deserving candidates were denied posts while others were favoured using forged caste and income certificates submitted beyond prescribed deadlines.

CID filed its chargesheet in 2012, accusing the trio of manipulating the selection process. The prosecution stated that certain candidates were wrongfully selected, at the expense of meritorious candidates HG Prabhakar, KS Hanumantharayappa and Allabaksh.

However, the trial exposed significant weaknesses in the case. A total of 41 witnesses were examined and 71 documents submitted by the prosecution, while the defence produced 81 documents. The court noted that much of the evidence only established the official roles of the accused and not any wrongdoing. A key setback for the prosecution was that several crucial witnesses, including the alleged victims, either turned hostile or contradicted their earlier statements. For instance, witnesses admitted they had either not submitted required documents during interviews or were unsure of their earlier claims.

The court also flagged inconsistencies in documentary evidence and investigation by CID. It noted gaps such as missing pages in exhibits, discrepancies in records, and conflicting forensic reports on caste certificates. Investigators themselves admitted to not conclusively verifying which documents were genuine in some cases. Further, testimonies indicated that the responsibility for verifying documents lay primarily with KPSC staff and the scrutiny process, while the selection committee's role was largely limited to conducting interviews and awarding marks. Some witnesses also stated that they did not observe any irregularities during the selection process.

The court observed that simply presenting a large number of witnesses and documents — described during the trial as "a trunk full of records" — was not sufficient without clear proof of intent to cheat or manipulate. It emphasised that there was no convincing evidence to show that the accused had knowingly forged documents, misused them, or acted with dishonest intent.

In its final analysis, the court held that the prosecution failed to prove that any candidate was illegally favoured or that any official deliberately caused loss to others.

With key allegations remaining unsubstantiated and evidence lacking consistency, the court concluded that the case had not been proven beyond doubt. Accordingly, all the accused were acquitted, bringing an end to one of Karnataka's most debated recruitment controversies linked to the KPSC.

Krishna was SIC when arrested in 2011

KPSC's gazetted probationer selections in 1998 triggered a major controversy in Karnataka.

HN Krishna, who served as KPSC member and later its chairperson during the controversial years, was arrested by CID in 2011.

At the time of arrest, Krishna was serving as state information commissioner. Along with aspirants Asha Parveen and Salma Firdosh, CID had accused KPSC staffers K Narasimha, MB Banakar and P Gopi Krishna, who was the personal assistant of Krishna, in the case. A forensic report by a Hyderabad laboratory had flagged discrepancies in caste certificates. While Asha Parveen was selected as tahsildar, Firdose was selected as assistant sub-registrar. TNN

HC clears passports of duo, bars travel till May 12

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: By way of a conditional interim order, the high court has directed the release of passports of two functionaries of event management firm DNA Entertainment Networks, arraigned as accused in connection with last year's Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede.

An application along with invites was submitted stating that Sunil Matthew and Kiran Kumar S were required to travel to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Madrid, Spain, to attend international programmes on travel management.

On the other hand, special public prosecutor BT Venkatesh submitted that the application lacked an itinerary — a key document to be considered by courts in such instances.

"We don't want another Vijay Mallya case," Justice SR Krishna Kumar observed while directing that the petitioners should not leave the country until May 12, when the court again takes up their petition seeking the quashing of proceedings.

Eleven people were killed and nearly 100 injured in the stampede that occurred outside Chinnaswamy Stadium on the afternoon of June 4, 2025, a day after the Royal Challengers Bengaluru won the Indian Premier League title.

Apart from the employees at DNA Entertainment Ltd, Royal Challengers Sports Pvt Ltd staff and erstwhile office-bearers of Karnataka State Cricket Association have challenged the FIR and the consequential proceedings initiated against them. The matter is pending in court.

STADIUM STAMPEDE

Govt allocates ₹14 crore for patient diet

Bengaluru: The govt has allocated Rs 14 crore to procure diet food for patients in eight state-run hospitals across Karnataka.

The finance department granted an exemption, allowing authorities to procure food supplies directly without going through the standard tendering process.

According to a notification published Wednesday, the health and family welfare department recently submitted a proposal seeking exemption to procure diet food for the 2026–27 financial year from Iskcon, with an estimated cost of over Rs 14 crore. The finance department approved the exemption with the condition that the health authorities must ensure the supply of quality diet food.

The highest allocation of Rs 5.1 crore went to Wenlock District Hospital in Mangaluru, followed by Rs 2.2 crore to Dharwad District Hospital. Three major hospitals in Bengaluru — KC General Hospital in Malleswaram, Bowring & Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar, and Sir CV Raman Hospital in Indiranagar — each received an allotment of Rs 1.8 crore.

Yelahanka and KR Pura govt hospitals in Bengaluru each were allocated Rs 36.6 lakh, while Nelamangala govt hospital will receive Rs 44 lakh. TNN

Info commission gets new chief

Bengaluru: Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot appointed Sathyavathi G the state chief information commissioner. The govt issued a notification in this regard. TNN

nie TIMES NIE CONGRATULATES SCHOOL TOPPERS OF ISC EXAMINATION 2025-26 AND EXTENDS ITS BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE

School name	Topper
Science stream	
ACTS School	Leah Renita K
Bethany High School, Koramangala	Manya Gupta
Bishop Cotton Boys' School	Kunal Bhansali & Devesh PV
Bishop Cotton Girls' School	S Kaitlyn Jessica
Clarence High School, Richards Town	Reuel Kibitu Benjamin
EISB	Advik Rastogi
Euro School, HSR Layout	Akshaya Nigam
Gopalan International School	Aditi
Greenwood High, Bannerghatta	Arnav Nama Manoj
Greenwood High, Sarjapur	Thanishka Kilaru
MG School for Excellence	Vismai S
Notre Dame Academy	Nandana Vijaya Sekaran & Brenda John Simon
Redbridge International Academy	Shreesha Shailendrakumar Mishra
Ryan International School, Kundalahalli	Vignesh Pillai
Sarala Birla Academy	Tanush Lakhwani
SFS Public School, Hebbagoddi	Saathvik Shanbhogue
Sishu Griha Senior School, Thippasandra	Mithya Manoj
St John's School, Hebbal	Sayeda Zurainne
St John's High School, Promenade Road	Aarush Sam Anand
St Joseph's Boys' High School	Victor Manoj GS
St Patrick's Academy	Keerthana Rajesh Babu
The Oxford English School, JP Nagar	Jyothiprakash
Commerce Stream	
ACTS School	Girish S
Bethany High School, Koramangala	Alice Flora D'Cruz
Bishop Cotton Boys' School	Samveg Jain
Bishop Cotton Girls' School	Nishka N Ahuja
Clarence High School, Richards Town	Rishika Jain
EISB	Annirudh Agarwal
Euro School, HSR Layout	Priyanka B
Gopalan International School	Vaishnavi Pydopalli
Greenwood High, Bannerghatta	Harshil Praveen
Greenwood High, Sarjapur	Ria Nayak
MG School for Excellence, Bilekahalli	Yashaswini M & Prajwal Kishore
Notre Dame Academy	Lakshmi Nambiar VK
Redbridge International Academy	Myint Win
Ryan International School, Kundalahalli	Gautham Nayak
Sarala Birla Academy	Rishabh Pandey
SFS Public School ICSE & ISC, Hebbagoddi	Amrutha Nair
Sishu Griha Senior School, Thippasandra	Diya Chaitanya Patil
St John's School, Hebbal	Lakshmi Sravya V
St John's High School, Promenade Road	Jaden Antonio Byford
St Joseph's Boys' High School	Ayushmaan Musaddi & Rohith Jain
St Patrick's Academy	Sumukh Reddy K
The Oxford English School, JP Nagar	Nilkanth Kalpesh Soni
Humanities stream	
ACTS School	Nathen S
Bethany High School, Koramangala	Aarohi Prasanna Oke
Bishop Cotton Boys' School	Daksh Jain
Bishop Cotton Girls' School	Odyssey Gayary
Clarence High School, Richards Town	Joanna Kingsly Nathaniel
Euro School, HSR Layout	Ujan Paul
Gopalan International School	Harshita Jeyakumar
Greenwood High, Bannerghatta	Ishaanvi Ashok Tiwari
Greenwood High, Sarjapur	Aditi Kumar
Kingston High School	Jonathan Xavier
Notre Dame Academy	Sharanya Dutta
St John's High School, Promenade Road	Remruatfeli Ralte

Student ends life, female pal booked

Bengaluru: The family of a 22-year-old student who allegedly ended his life on April 27 has accused his female friend of driving him to suicide with prolonged mental and physical harassment. The family also accused his college teacher (coordinator) of harassment, including debarment due to attendance shortage.

The deceased, Mehul Anand, a native of Patna in Bihar, was a fourth-year student at an institute (a deemed university) on Bannerghatta Road.

A police officer said Anand made a video call to his friend, who is his junior at the same institute, and informed her that he was ending his life. She rushed to the spot along with her friends and broke open the door to find him hanging. The noose was untied, and he was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Following the incident, his distressed friend also wrote a death note and wanted to end her life. She has been counselled not to take an extreme step and has been served a notice to appear before the investigating officer. TNN

Kulkarni disqualified as MLA, byelection looms

Gururaj Jamkhandi | TNN

Dharwad: Congress MLA **Vinay Kulkarni** has been officially disqualified from the legislative assembly for six years from April 15, following his conviction in a 2016 murder case. The move has triggered a fresh byelection in the politically sensitive Dharwad seat.

Kulkarni was convicted by a special court in Bengaluru along with 16 others in the murder of BJP functionary Yogeesh Gouda. He was elected from Dharwad in 2023.

In a notification Saturday, assembly secretary MK Vishalakshi said the disqualification was enforced under Article 191(1)(e) of the Constitution and Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. It will remain in force for six years from the date of his release unless a higher court stays the conviction.

The development creates a fresh vacancy in the assembly, setting the stage for another bypoll. The outcome of the recently held by-elections to Davanagere South and Bagalkot seats are due for announcement Monday.

Dharwad seat, earlier Dharwad Rural, has a history of midterm churn. Since 1981, it has seen three by-elections, each under unusual circumstances — from the death of sitting MLAs to resignations. Traditionally a Congress bastion, the seat has seen shifting loyalties over time, with BJP making gains in recent years.

Kulkarni's own electoral record reflects that volatility. He won as an independent in 2004, lost in 2008, returned in 2013, lost again in 2018, and staged a comeback in 2023 despite restrictions on entering Dharwad district during the campaigning.

CM pulls up secretaries over delayed redressal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Over 1,800 delayed public grievances have come under scrutiny, with chief minister **Siddaramaiah** Saturday warning that slow response is hurting citizens and eroding their trust in govt services.

At a meeting of additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries and secretaries at Vidhana Soudha, he said over 3.2 lakh petitions were filed under the Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (IPGRS), but delays in disposal are unacceptable. "If grievances are not addressed on time, people lose faith in the govt. This must not happen," he said, directing strict adherence to timelines, including under Sakala.

The CM linked delays in complaints to broader governance gaps. Fifteen promises from last year's budget remain pending, while only five orders have been issued for the 2026-27 budget, with 565 announcements. "All budget announcements must be implemented within the same year without fail," he said.

Govt's 3rd year event on May 20

The state govt will complete three years in office on May 20, and a mega convention is being planned in Tumakuru to mark the occasion, home minister G Parameshwara said Saturday. Over 2 lakh beneficiaries from across the state are expected to attend the event. TNN

Instructions to ensure drinking water supply

Siddaramaiah said there is a possibility of a 5% shortfall in rain this year and asked officials to ensure that the drinking water supply is not affected.

Santhosh visits BSY amid rift

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: BJP veteran and former CM BS Yediyurappa and the party's national general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh met over breakfast Saturday, projecting unity despite a history of strained ties.

In a post on X, Yediyurappa said Santhosh visited his residence, conveyed personal greetings marking his 50-year political journey, and appreciated his role in strengthening the party in Karnataka. The meeting assumes significance amid internal dissent in the party against BJP state president and Yediyurappa's son BY Vijayendra. Party insiders said the interaction comes ahead of the May 9 'BSY Abhimanotsava' in Chitradurga, and is seen as an attempt to bring together factions within the state unit.

DKS becomes grandpa, Surya sends greetings

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya Friday greeted deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar on becoming a grandfather, noting that the latter continued official engagements despite the development at home. In a post on X, Surya said Shivakumar participated in multiple programmes in south Bengaluru while receiving repeated calls about his daughter Aishwarya Shivakumar's delivery.

He attended events, including a flyover inauguration and a skywalk foundation ceremony. TNN

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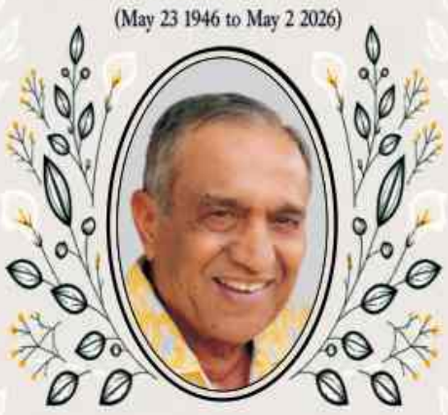

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He fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith.
A man of strong principles, loyal to God and country, always positive and full of laughter.
He will be dearly missed by all who knew him and by his family.

Lorna
Sanjay & Priya, Torun & Farah, Rajiv & Anjana, Arya & Tanvi, Luca & Leah, and Gia.

VIEWING: Monday, May 4 2026, 10:45 AM, St. Patrick's Church, Bangalore
FUNERAL SERVICE: Monday, May 4 2026, 11:00 AM, St. Patrick's Church, Bangalore
BURIAL: Monday, May 4 2026, After Service, Hosur Cemetery, Bangalore

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w/o Lt. Col. Chacko Kurian (Retd), Thottupurathu House

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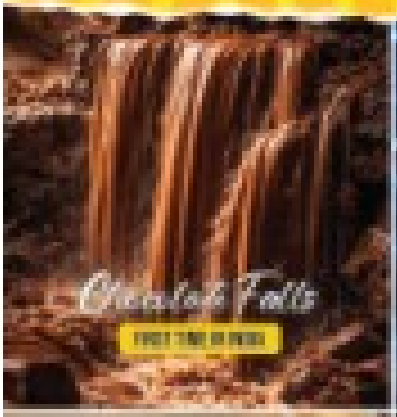

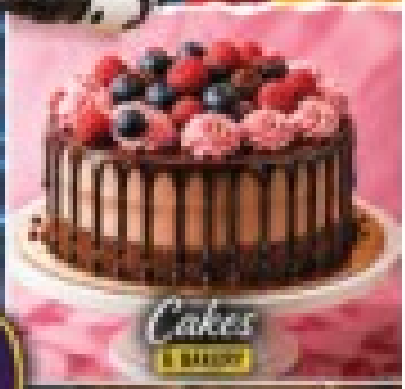

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Going paperless: Deed writers warn of legal implications

Pilot For Digital Regn Started In Chamarajanagar

Hamsaveni.N
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Karnataka govt's pilot move to introduce fully paperless property registration has sparked widespread concern among licensed document writers, who warn the transition could weaken legal safeguards while threatening the livelihoods of thousands dependent on the profession.

According to Karnataka State Stamps and Registrations Development Authorised Licensed Document Writers' Union, there are around 15,000 document writers across Karnataka and lakhs of them who are working for the writers fear job loss as their role is unclear in the new policy.

The trial pertaining to paperless property registration project, currently being implemented across sub-registrar offices in Chamarajanagar district through Kaveri 3 platform, puts an end to physical paperwork and manual drafting while enables end-to-end digital document generation.

While the initiative is aimed at improving efficiency and reducing human intervention, document writers argue the system overlooks critical layers of legal verification that have historically ensured the authenticity of property transactions.

A key concern flagged by the document writers' community is the absence of signatures on each page of the document — a long-standing practice in manual registrations. Traditionally, document writers ensure all parties involved sign every page, reinforcing the legal sanctity of the document and reducing the scope for disputes or tampering. In the paperless format, they say, this safeguard is missing.

"Without signatures across pages and without clarity on who drafted the document, the legal strength of such records becomes questionable," DK Sangamesh Yeligar, president of the association said, raising doubts about their acceptability in courts.

Beyond legal concerns, the shift has triggered anxiety over large-scale job losses. Naveen Kumar N, vice-president of the association, told **TOI**: "For years we have been part of the system and now, we don't know where we will fit in in the new paperless system. What will happen to all the licensed document writers? And according to the central govt law, only a licensed document writer along with a legal practitioner is allowed to draft these documents which are part of the real estate."

As part of their demands, the writers have proposed the creation of a unique identification system for licensed document writers within the digital platform.

Syed Asif

LEGACY OF AGE-OLD LEGAL DOCUMENTATION WORK

DIGITAL DILEMMA: Document writers argue that the system overlooks critical layers of legal verification that have historically ensured the authenticity of property transactions

Document writers have been an integral part of the property registration system for decades, with their role rooted in legal frameworks dating back to the Registration Act, 1908. Between 1908 and 1970, they were called Shanubhoga. Later, they were called deed writers or document writers.

Over time, their presence became formalised, particularly in Karnataka, where rules and govt orders since the late 20th century have recognised licensed document writers as authorised professionals involved in drafting legal documents. In fact, document writers act as the first layer of legal scrutiny in property transactions.

LeT terror plot convict gets 7-year RI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A special NIA court Saturday sentenced Vikram Kumar alias Chota Usman to seven years of rigorous imprisonment for his involvement in a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)-linked terror conspiracy. The court also imposed Rs 30,000 fine on the 28-year-old convict, who was the ninth accused in the high-profile Central Prison radicalisation case.

Seven other members of the module were sentenced to seven years of jail in April.

The conspiracy involved identification and recruitment of gullible inmates of Bengaluru prison for carrying out terror acts across India. The module was led by T Naseer, an alleged LeT operative linked to the 2008 Bengaluru serial blasts.

Vikram, originally from Begusarai in Bihar, was serving time for a 2017 murder case when he met Naseer. Under his influence, Vikram later converted to Islam. After his release, Vikram collaborated with absconding handler Junaid Ahmed, probe revealed. In May 2023, acting on Junaid's instructions, Vikram collected a parcel from Ambala, containing hand grenades, walkie-talkies, ammunition.

According to investigations, these weapons were intended to facilitate Naseer's escape during a court transfer and to launch a "fidayeen" (suicide) attack in Bengaluru.

LPG price hike: Auto drivers worry as earnings cut short

Anush.S@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Following Friday's Rs 6 hike in the per-litre price of LPG for automobiles, autorickshwaw drivers in Bengaluru say their earnings have been significantly cut short. The new price of Rs 95.24 per litre led to filling stations across the city seeing a much lesser number of auto rickshwas on Saturday.

Syed Moula, an auto driver from Madiwala, said he is considering taking up some other work. "LPG prices before the (Iran) war were around Rs 60. With one litre my auto would run for around 25km. Now, for the same distance, I have to pay almost Rs 100," Moula said.

Surviving on tips

He said some riders are now paying extra tips to help drivers. "Today, I dropped a customer to KSR railway station who was getting late for his train. Though the fare was Rs 300, he paid me Rs 600. Only such tips are keeping us going," Moula said.

Drivers also complained that aggregator platforms have not revised the fares even after the price hike.

"I don't see any compensation being provided for the high fuel prices. A lot of drivers opted for LPG as CNG was expensive, but now both are at the same level," said Manikandan U from Koramangala.

> Some passengers are now paying extra tips to bail out autorickshaw drivers. Today, I dropped a customer to Krantivira Sangoli Rayanna railway station. He was running late for his train. Though the fare came up to Rs 300, he paid me double the amount, Rs 600. Only tips like these from riders are keeping us all going
> **Syed Moula** | AUTO DRIVER FROM MADIWALA

HOTELIERS PROTEST STEEP HIKE

Karnataka State Hotels' Association (KSHA) Saturday held a protest at Freedom Park to demand that govt immediately reduce GST on 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders from 18% to 5%. Hoteliers said prices have risen from Rs 1,800–2,000 in March to more than Rs 3,000 now. The hotel and restaurant industry is facing an unprecedented crisis, the association said.

File photo

HIKE INEVITABLE: UNION MIN

Union minister Pralhad Joshi Saturday defended the hike in commercial LPG cylinder price, citing India's dependence on imports. He said over 50% of the country's LPG requirement is met through imports and the increase in price is "inevitable," given that oil marketing companies are incurring heavy losses due to disruption in global supply chains.

Boating accidents: Elderly couple drowns, 1 missing

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Two separate boating incidents within hours of each other at the backwaters of Krishna Raja Sagar dam near Giriyarahalli in Mandya district left an elderly couple dead and a young man missing, casting a shadow over the tourist spot.

In the first incident Friday evening, 72-year-old Manjunath and his 70-year-old wife Jessie, residents of Bengaluru, lost their lives after a sailing training boat capsized in the water.

KRS BACKWATERS

Police said the couple ventured into the backwaters along with their daughter, son-in-law and grandson when the boat, due to strong winds and rain, suddenly overturned. Although all occupants were wearing life jackets, the elderly couple reportedly succumbed to shock and drowning.

Rescue teams managed to save the other three family members, but Manjunath and Jessie could not be revived.

Their bodies were later retrieved and handed over to the family after completing legal formalities.

Police said that the family was familiar with sailing activities and participated in similar outings in the past.

A case has been registered at KRS police station and probe is on.

26-year-old goes fishing, boat overturns

In another incident at the same location, 26-year-old Madhu, a resident of Giriyarahalli village in Pandavapura taluk, went missing after his fishing boat overturned due to sudden strong winds.

Madhu reportedly had gone fishing Friday evening when the weather turned rough, leading to the mishap.

Search and rescue operations are ongoing, with teams intensively combing the backwaters to trace the missing youth.

Both incidents fall under the jurisdiction of KRS police station, and investigations are on.

The twin tragedies have raised serious concerns about safety protocols and the dangers posed by unpredictable weather conditions in the backwaters, particularly during the evening hours.

Scrolling to conversations: Community learns simple measures for digital detox

Jahnavi.@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Residents of Prestige Jindal City swapped screen time for face-to-face interaction Saturday evening as **The Times of India** hosted its first community edition of Let's D-Stress initiative in the city, after two earlier campus events.

The session combined expert insights with engaging activities, featuring Dr Eesha Sharma, associate professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at Nimhans, who spoke about the effects of excessive digital use, especially among children, and a lively discussion by RJ Shaayan Bhattacharya.

Dr Eesha underlined an important guideline — no screen exposure for children below the age of two. She explained early brain development depends heavily on real-world interactions. "There is experience-dependent learning, which comes from what children engage with, and experience-expectant learning — skills like emotional regulation, decision-making and problem-solving. These do not develop effectively when there is constant digital engagement."

She also emphasised the influence of parents. "A child won't do what you tell them, but they do what you do. Their habits are shaped by what they see at home," she said.

The session also stirred nostalgia among residents, who recalled the days of landline phones and minimal screen exposure. Dr Eesha encouraged them to reconnect with simpler habits — such as meeting neighbours or having offline conversations — to unwind.

> Phones have become like an extra limb for most people — they only put them down to charge. I've noticed that when they're deliberately kept away, we actually forget about them. That's why consciously setting devices aside is so important
> **Harish M** | RETIRED AIR FORCE PERSONNEL

> As parents of two, we're always thinking about how to give our kids the best. The key takeaway for both of us was that boredom is actually good for mental health — that really stayed with us. We're still working on our own habits, and we'll try to lead by example, rather than just telling them what to do
> **Jai Ganesh J and Rukmini S** | RESIDENTS

LET'S D-STRESS
THE TIMES OF INDIA
CHANGE Begins Here

Scan the QR to take a scientific psychological assessment of your digital habits.

Syed Asif

Dr Eesha Sharma from Nimhans addressed the residents of Prestige Jindal City at TOI's Lets D-Stress community conversation event in Bengaluru on Saturday

> The programme was really good and well received by the community. Digital detox is such a relevant topic today, and it's great that The Times of India supported and brought this initiative to us
> **Sridhar Kantharaj** | VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE APARTMENT ASSOCIATION

> The session helped me understand the concerns, how it's affecting the brain, and what we can do to improve our habits so our children can improve too
> **Deepti Agrawal** | RESIDENT

> The idea of de-stressing by cutting down on digital use and spending time with family really stood out. The way the session was conducted made it easy to relate to, and the steps suggested felt doable for everyday life. It's a meaningful way to manage daily stress and declutter mentally
> **Aditya S** | RESIDENT

HC bins RGUHS move to exclude senate members from panel

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court quashed a 2024 resolution of a syndicate meeting of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) excluding senate members from the local inspection committee on continuation of affiliation of colleges.

J Nandeesh and other RGUHS senate members had challenged the resolution, contending the syndicate did not obtain the assent of the senate which has power to make, amend or repeal statutes under the RGUHS Act.

Justice ES Indiresh pointed out that for amending or repealing the statute, the syndicate has to submit its proposal to the senate which has the power to give assent. Thereafter, such a resolution along with the recommendation of the senate should be placed before govt for assent. Even for continuation of affiliation, local inspection committee members have to verify the entire records pertaining to various requirements and even if there is any lacuna in compliance of mandatory provisions, it is the duty of the committee to withdraw the affiliation of the college concerned. In view of the matter, excluding the members of the senate would affect the foundation for decision-making process, the judge said.

Confirm promotions of SPs in two months, court tells govt

Bengaluru: The high court recently directed state govt to confirm in two months the promotions of 26 police officers to the rank of superintendent of police (SP).

In Nov 2023, govt promoted 35 deputy superintendents of police (DSPs) as SPs (non-IPS) through a departmental promotion committee. However, the promotions were given on temporary basis. Nine of them retired without having their promotions confirmed.

These SPs, who joined the police force as SIs, were promoted as DSPs with 30 years of service and were confirmed as DSPs in 2015.

The promoted SPs made several representations to govt for confirming them, before they approached Karnataka Administrative Tribunal last year, which ordered govt to consider confirmation of their promotions. "Govt appealed against the order before high court. The latter then directed govt to confirm the promotions within two months of the order date (April 24)," a police officer said. TNN

Of 279 rejected ballots, 2 were found valid during recount

▶ Continued from page 1

Ballot papers were brought from the strongroom earlier in the day in the presence of district officials, including the deputy commissioner and tahsildars.

During the recount, officials first re-verified the 279 previously rejected ballots and then counted the remaining postal votes, including three NOTA votes.

Of the 279 rejected ballots, two were found valid during recount and those ballots were in favour of the Congress candidate, increasing Rajegowda's total by two votes.

There was some confusion when only 270 of the rejected ballots could be traced, with the remaining nine located after an extensive search.

Reacting to the outcome, Rajegowda said: "I could have approached the Supreme Court with an appeal, but I chose not to do so, as I wanted the truth to come out, and truth has prevailed."

Jeevaraj was unavailable for comments.

Kodagu rape case: Owner denies allegations during bail hearing

▶ Continued from page 1

The II additional district and sessions court in Kodagu granted Vishal bail on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh with two sureties of the same amount.

The court directed Vishal to appear for all hearings, not tamper with witnesses or evidence, not leave the court's jurisdiction without permission, and cooperate with the investigation.

His advocate, Kokkanda Appanna, said he is likely to be released Monday as the order came late Saturday. He will remain in custody until then.

Vishal denied the allegations while seeking bail.

According to the complaint filed by the American woman, Vrijesh raped her on April 12 at the homestay after she was served a sedative-laced guava juice upon arrival.

The complaint also alleged that Vishal had disconnected Wi-Fi at the facility and pressured her not to disclose the incident to police or anyone else.

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SR.CITIZEN Flats - 3 places- Kumbakonam, Tanjore, Thiruvaiyaru 1BH Rs.3L to 27L - Rent + Food Extra. JV OK - KNK 98424 35546

GOA PROPERTIES

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More TIMES interact **ads on subsequent pages...**

Flats for sale
2-3 Bed residences in prime neighbourhoods

Location	Project	Configuration
Church Street	Deauville Apartments	3 BHK
Ulsoor	Usha Kiran Apartments	3 BHK
Richards Park	Regency Park	2 BHK

- Owned by a reputed multinational corporation
- Last day to submit bids: Thursday, May 21, 2026

Faaiz **98868 98441** JLL

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Courses in SHIFT - II (Timings : 2:00 pm to 6:25 pm)
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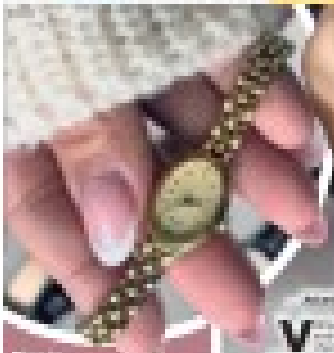
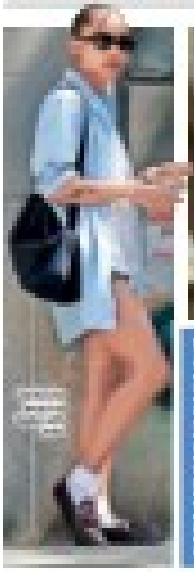


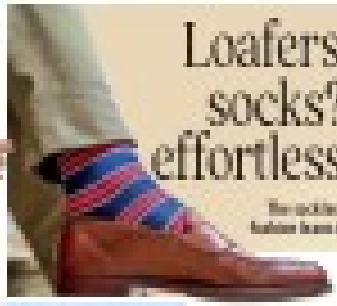
WINDOW TO THE WORLD

SUMMER BELONGS TO CHUNKY NECKLACES

CHANEL LEADS GLOBAL FASHION RANKINGS



Loafers without socks? Not so effortless anymore



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WANTED Teachers : Nursery, Primary and High School Classes for all the Subjects including Computer. "SRI VIDYA KENDRA", Peenya 1st stage, Bangalore-58. Ph-9900708182, 28398833, 41179155.

PREMIER HIGH SCHOOL, Srirampuram (Nr Mantri Mall) Requires Experienced Female Teachers for Nursery, Social Science, Hindi (Primary), Drawing, Craft & PE. Contact: 9538836721, 080-23421020

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FACILITIES MANAGER-Serviced Apartments/Hotels. MG Road Area. Responsible for Purchases, Installation, Setup, R&M, etc. Coordinate with Architects, Masons, Plumbers, Electricians, etc. Knowledge of MS Office is must. Rs.25-35K. Send Resume by WA only (DONT CALL) to 7899612345

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OAKROAD Ventures Pvt Ltd, a Seasoned Spices & blends Co. seeks FMCG Distributors in Blore, Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, & Calcutta. Women Mktg Managers & CRM's with Metro City Sales Exp. (online/offline) are encouraged to apply. 9480051410. vasanthamachaih@oakroad.industries/vasanth.machaiah@gmail.com

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WANTED: Manager, Field Officers for Hoskote, Doddaballapur- Bidadi Areas, Security Officer/ Supervisor/ Guards in & around Bangalore for Shashi Detective Services Pvt. Ltd. Rajajinagar, Bangalore-10. Ph: 23133633/ 23134876/ 98804 95755 contact@shashisecurity.com

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tender & notices

NOTICES

NOTICE: I Lost property documents of Brigade Golden Triangle vide Sale Deed No. 1st Reg. No. HLS-1-01457-2017-18, C.D. No. HLSD 148 Dt. 30-06-2017, Flat C-1421 during shifting house at Avalahalli, BLR-49. If found contact: Santhosh Kumar T V - 6364628844.

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ADITYA RAO S/o K Vaman Rao, Residing at #624/13A, 3rd Cross, 3rd main, 3rd Phase, Ittamadu Layout, Bengaluru-560085, have changed my name to RAO CHAKRADHAR vide affidavit dated 09.03.2026 sworn before notary Sivakumara M N, Bangalore.

LOST & FOUND

I, Praveen.R have Lost My Original Sale deed documents Situated in "Addaguriki Village of (Panchayath unit of Kanalatti) Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri Dist. Doc No - 2504/2010, Sy No - 35/1C, (Area Extend AC 0.54 Cents), SRO Shoolagiri, While Some Personal Work in Near Old Airport Road Near HAL. Case Registered No - 2176390/2026. SAKALA NO - P0012S260001179, AFFIDAVIT NO - IN KA - 47839812508966Y. Finder Please Contact or Return to This Address, Praveen.R, Flat No - G05, SV Grand Appartment, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, NGR Layout, Roopena Agrahara Madivala, Bommanahalli, Bangalore. Phone - 8722281631

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C&F Agents and Transporters

Madura Coats Private Limited invites experienced and professional service providers to express interest in providing Clearing & Forwarding (C&F) and transportation services.

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We are seeking capable partners to manage warehousing and distribution operations at our Bangalore distribution centre.

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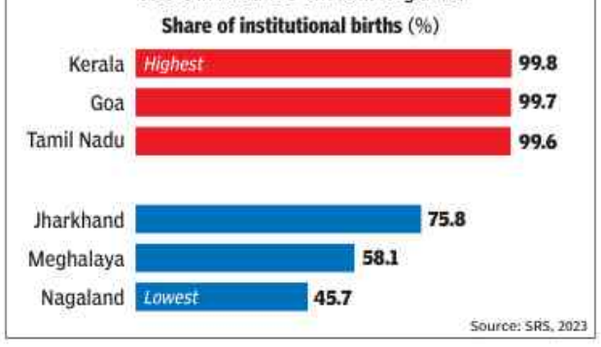
Nearly 9 in 10 births in India happen in health facilities

In 2023, almost 90% of births in India took place in a medical facility under trained supervision, which lowers risks for both mother and baby. But the share ranged widely, from 99.8% in Kerala to 45.7% in Nagaland



Source: SRS, 2023

MP tourism launched cruise despite high-wind forecast

Bargi Toll Rises To 11 As Rescue Ops Continue

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

PTI

Authorities said the search would go on till all passengers were accounted for

Jabalpur/Bhopal: Ignored wind warnings came under sharp scrutiny after the death toll in the Bargi dam cruise disaster rose to 11 on Saturday, with rescuers retrieving two more bodies — both children — from the reservoir in central MP.

The sinking has become a wellspring of criticism after officials revealed that the cruise, operated by MP Tourism, was launched on Thursday evening despite forecasts of winds touching 50kmph — far above the 25-30kmph ceiling recommended for water sports. Wind speeds were later estimated to have surged to nearly 74kmph.

Safety practices elsewhere in the state appeared to dovetail with those guidelines. Water sports at Lower Lake in Bhopal were suspended the same day due to strong wind alerts. National water sports coach Mayank Thakur said he hedged a bit below official thresholds, halting operations even at 20-22kmph. "The life of every single athlete is precious," he said.

Prashant Kushwaha, linked to International Canoe Federation, underscored that no warnings from meteorological authorities were taken lightly. "If wind speeds exceed safety standards, we prohibit launching of boats," he said.

Accounts from within the tourism department alleged a pattern of neglect. An employee said weather inputs were often not consulted before launching boats.

Attempts to reach senior officials drew no response.

The latest victims, identified as Viraj Soni (4) and Tamil (5), were pulled out of the reservoir at Bargi Dam.

Six members of the Soni family from Darhai village had been on board the ship. Four survived. The body of Viraj's mother, Nisha, was found earlier. Tamil had been on the cruise with his father and cousin. Both are still missing.

Bargi sub-divisional police officer Anjul Ayank Mishra confirmed the recoveries, taking the toll to eight women and three children.

Four people remain missing as search operations entered a third day. More than 200 personnel from police, SDRF, NDRF and the Army continued combing the waters, battling strong winds and poor visibility.

Investigators said 43 people boarded the cruise, according to CCTV footage at the entry point. Twenty-eight were rescued the same night. Rescue teams retrieved four bodies on Thursday, and five and two the following days.

Authorities said the search would continue until all passengers were accounted for.

Life jackets not must for dam cruise: Official

Bhopal: Days after a survivor revealed that life jackets were handed out only after the cruise vessel at Bargi dam started sinking, a Madhya Pradesh Tourism Corporation (MPT) adviser claimed on Saturday that wearing life jackets wasn't mandatory for boats cruising the reservoir, reports **Ramendra Singh**.

Pressed on the lack of life jackets tailored to different sizes, the official conceded there were limitations

Retired Navy commander Rajendra Nigam, MPT's adviser on water sports, said boats for the cruise had adequate life jackets. "It (wearing a life jacket) was not mandatory to enjoy a boat ride. Sufficient life jackets were stored," he said.

Pressed on the lack of life jackets tailored to different sizes, Nigam, however, conceded there were limitations. "We have standard small, medium and large sizes but we can't provide suitable ones in case of big weight deviations from these," he said.

Youngest, fastest Palk Strait swimmer eyes English Channel

Kelly Kislaya | TNN

Ranchi: Two days after seven-year-old **Ishank Singh** from the city scripted history by becoming the youngest in the world to swim across the Palk Strait, he already has his eyes set on the next milestone.

His family members said he showed an affinity towards water at a much earlier stage. "Even before he was two, he was drawn to water at Chhath Ghat, and would insist on swimming in Dhurwa dam," said his mother, Manisha Sinha, who runs a children's hospital. His father, Sunil Kumar, a businessman, enrolled him in swimming classes at three, and he soon started outperforming children twice his age.

On Thursday, the class 3 student of Jawahar Vidya Mandir successfully navigated the 29-km Palk Strait from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanushkodi in Tamil Nadu, clocking nine hours and 50 minutes.

The seven-year-old was awarded the 'world record certificate' by the Universal Records Forum, naming him the 'youngest and fastest Palk Strait swimmer'. The Open Water Swimming Academy in Theni, Tamil Nadu, also honoured him with the '2026 OWSAT World Record'.

The record was previously held by Tamil Nadu's Jay Jaswanth, who achieved the feat at the age of 10.

Ishank is looking towards his next horizon. "Now I want to swim 60 km from India to Sri Lanka and back. I also want to swim across the English Channel," he said. His ultimate goal is to represent India in the Olympics and win a medal, and to conquer the 'Seven Oceans'.

The transition from pool to ocean was a calculated move to push him towards a greater challenge.

"We saw he could easily swim 5km a day in a pool, so we pivoted toward long-distance endurance," Sinha said. Under the tutelage of coaches Aman Kumar Jaiswal and Bajrang Kumar, Ishank's training intensified at Dhurwa dam to build the stamina required for the unpredictable currents of Palk Strait.

Success did not come without sacrifice. While on regular days he trained two hours a day, since Feb, Ishank's training schedule escalated to nearly five hours and sometimes eight hours a day.

IPS officer booked for rape in Jaipur

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: A senior IPS officer of Rajasthan Police has been booked over the charge of rape after a woman sent a complaint, police said.

An FIR was registered on April 29 at a police station based on the complaint of the woman. Police said the woman stated in her complaint that the officer called her to his govt residence, where he sexually assaulted her. She also stated that her phone was switched off, she was assaulted physically and threatened against reporting the incident.

The complainant further claimed she continued to receive threats over her mobile for nearly three months after the incident.

Man gets 20 yrs RI for raping deaf, mute teen

Agra: A local Pocso court has sentenced a 24-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a 16-year-old deaf and mute girl in Agra in 2019, and imposed a fine of Rs 15,000 on him. TNN

Sena and BJP may go alone in 2029 polls: Maha min

Chaitanya.Marpakwar
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Adding to speculation that all may not be well between the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and BJP, Sena minister **Sanjay Shirsat** said on Saturday that the parties could contest the 2029 polls separately.

"Every political party is trying to strengthen its organisation and prepare for the elections. They have the right to do so. If the allies want to contest the elections independently, there is no political system that can stop them," Shirsat said.

Shirsat said both BJP and Shiv Sena can contest the 2029 polls independently, responding to a Saamna editorial, the Sena UBT mouthpiece, , which stated BJP may contest future elections on its own.

Can't say what will happen next: UBT MP

Mumbai: Amid speculation that MPs of the Uddhav Thackeray camp could switch over to Shinde's Shiv Sena, Sena UBT MP Sanjay Jadhav created a stir on Saturday by saying "economic calculations are important in elections, so it is impossible to say what will happen next".

"I will never betray those who made me grow, but the current situation has changed," he said, reports **Chaitanya Marpakwar**.

Last month, two Sena UBT MPs Nagesh Ashtikar and Sanjay Deshmukh had attended Sena minister Pratap Jadhav's dinner, leading to buzz that there was a rift in the party.

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Repolling in West Bengal's 15 booths: Voter turnout at 86.9%,

Diamond Harbour/Kolkata: The 15 booths in South 24 Parganas where repolling was held on Saturday logged a turnout of 86.9%, substantially lower than the record-breaking 92.9% clocked over the two phases of polling in Bengal. Eleven of these booths were in Magrahat West and four in Diamond Harbour assembly seats, report **Dwaipayan Ghosh** and **Kaushik Pradhan**.

Saturday's turnout was also lower than South 24 Parganas' turnout of 93.4% on April 29. The 11 Magrahat West booths recorded a voter turnout of 86.1%, much lower than the 94.2% that the assembly seat had recorded on April 29. Similarly, the four Diamond Harbour booths could notch up a turnout of 87.6%, falling short of the 94.3% that the seat had clocked. The figures were, however, still higher than those recorded in previous elections. The EC had on Friday ordered repolling in the 15 booths following reports of irregularities during Wednesday's vote.

PTI

Voters at a polling booth in Magrahat West constituency in West Bengal on Saturday

Across the areas that TOI criss-crossed in Magrahat and Diamond Harbour, most people standing in queues kept repeating that they had to vote to ensure that their "votes did not go to waste".

The voters were helped by the administration, which ensured voting remained peaceful and fair. At the Akhtara booth and the Najra FP School — booths where claims were made of stickers and cupboards being used to hide names and symbols of certain candidates, including those of BJP — voters were taken aback to see large CRPF and RAF contingents with anti-riot Vajra and Marksman vehicles entering the village.

Razia Gazi stood at a polling booth about 23km from Diamond Harbour. She broke into a smile when she saw her daughter, Rojina Bibi, walking down along with her husband. "My daughter had come to cast her vote all the way from Mumbai. She left with my son-in-law on Friday morning. They boarded the train on Saturday from Kolkata. I received a call from the BLO informing me of a repoll. I called my son-in-law. I spoke to him for 30 minutes and was not sure he was convinced. I am relieved today," said Gazi.

Villagers allege threat from TMC goons

▶ Continued from page 1

Buttons were defaced with black masking tape and ink, affecting 60 of 285 polling stations — about 21% of the constituency. These booths accounted for 53,967 voters, or 22.82% of the 2.36 lakh electorate.

"This compromised the integrity of recorded votes and made it impossible to ascertain the mandate," EC said, adding gaps in video footage meant similar tampering elsewhere in Falta could not be ruled out.

Tension flared Saturday in Hasimnagar, a locality within Falta along the Hooghly river corridor, where villagers alleged threats from associates of Trinamool Congress candidate Jahangir Khan. Police observer Ajaypal Sharma, a DIG overseeing Diamond Harbour subdivision on the city's southern fringe, rushed to the area as residents complained of inaction.

Security was stepped up with deployment of state police and central forces. EC later ordered the arrest of two of Khan's aides, Izrafil Chokdar and Sujauddin Sheikh. The countermanding removes Falta from Monday's count, tightening focus on the remaining seats that will determine the next govt.

No further orders are needed: SC

▶ Continued from page 1

The court, passed a brief order and brought the controversy to an end. "No further orders are necessary in this case except to record the statement of Mr Dama Seshadri Naidu that the EC will implement the circular dated 13th April, 2026 in true letter and spirit. With these clarifications, the special leave petition stands dismissed," it said.

TMC had moved SC challenging the additional chief electoral officer's decision mandating "at least one among the counting supervisor and counting assistant at each counting table shall be a central govt/central PSU employee" for the counting of votes.

The petition alleged the decision was "arbitrary, without jurisdiction, discriminatory, and creating a reasonable apprehension of bias, given that its principal political opponent, BJP, is the ruling party at the Centre and thus exercises administrative control over central govt/PSU employees."

"Despite the existence of such safeguards, the communication introduces an additional and disproportionate requirement mandating the presence of central govt/central PSU employees as counting supervisors or counting assistants over and above the micro-observers already present from the central govt/central PSU employees. The said requirement has been imposed without disclosing any objective criteria," the petition said.

Ahead of counting, TMC & BJP spar over EVM security

Report Breach Attempts, CCTV Feed Blackouts

Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Kolkata: Ahead of the May 4 counting of votes for the assembly elections, key rivals Trinamool and BJP in Bengal sparred and flagged incidents of 'lax security and blacked-out CCTV footage' at EVM strongrooms on Saturday.

Tension flared at Barasat Govt College in North 24 Parganas district on Saturday after the CCTV monitoring display reportedly went dark for 17 minutes. Suspecting deliberate tampering, TMC workers and candidates staged a protest. EC officials rushed to the spot, after which the display started functioning.

According to the complaint, CCTV monitors at the strongroom, where EVMs from the Barasat, Habra, Ashoknagar, and Deganga constituencies are stored, went completely blank between 8:05 am and 8:22 am. Trinamool demanded that the full footage of the period be made available and that strict action be taken against whoever turned off the monitor.

TMC Ashoknagar candidate Narayan Goswami said: "The ARO showed me footage sent to the magistrate where the cameras were operational. But if someone switched off the TV, EC should have taken immediate action. We need to know what happened."

Additional returning officer Abhijit Das said: "We received information that the feed was not visible. By 8:20am, the SDO had arrived. It was found that the external monitor had been powered off. Once switched on, the feed resumed... It appears the switch was turned off from the outside. An investigation is underway."

Meanwhile, BJP flagged two such incidents: one in Salt Lake and another in Burdwan.

BJP's Bidhannagar candidate Sharadwat Mukherjee said the strongroom at Bidhannagar was supposed to be opened on Saturday. He alleged it was actually opened multiple times on Friday without official notification. He contacted the returning officer.

CPM candidate Soumyajit Raha said a complaint had also been lodged with EC.

BJP's Amit Malviya alleged on X: "At UIT, an attempt was made by a TMC goon to scale the compound walls and gain access to a strongroom housing EVMs. The incident was flagged by BJP candidate Sanjay Das, raising serious concerns about the intent behind such actions. This is no ordinary facility; it contains EVMs from five crucial constituencies — Bardhaman Uttar, Bardhaman Dakshin, Galsi, Ausgram, and Bhatar."

In Kolkata, Trinamool's Shyampukur candidate Shashi Panja visited the strongroom at Netaji Indoor Stadium on Saturday, where, she said, the guards initially stopped her, saying those already inside must exit first. She said she was only allowed to enter after clarification from the police. She also flagged the lack of CCTVs in the strongroom, claiming officials told her that cameras would be installed "shortly".

"When the postal ballot trunks of seven constituencies arrived, there was no representative of any political party here," she said.

Prohibitory orders in place within a 200-m radius of Kolkata strongrooms

Police have barred assembly of five or more persons within a 200-metre radius of all seven designated strongrooms in Kolkata, report **Tamaghna Banerjee** and **Dwaipayan Ghosh**. The prohibitory orders, issued by police commissioner Ajay Nand, are in force since Thursday. At Kshudiram Anushilan Kendra, guard rails have been raised to nearly 10 feet after CM Mamata Banerjee alleged that a BJP agent had illegally entered the strongroom. Central forces had to intervene to avert a clash between TMC and BJP supporters. District election officer (North) Smita Pandey has sought a detailed report from the police into the alleged breach.

BATTLEGROUND WEST BENGAL

ED sends fresh summons to Bengal mantri

Kolkata: ED again sent summons to state fire minister and Trinamool's Bidhannagar candidate Sujit Bose Saturday after questioning him for nearly nine hours on Friday. He has been asked to appear before the agency on May 6. Trinamool neta Rathin Ghosh was also asked to appear.

Bose, summoned multiple times earlier in the municipal recruitment scam, appeared before the agency on May 1 after Calcutta HC directed him to do so when he cited election work for non-appearance. On Friday, his son Samudra was also summoned. ED had earlier conducted raids over premises linked to Sujit Bose. TNN

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PUNJABI

SEEKING caring bride for issueless divorced MBA smart clean-shaven handsome Sikh gentleman 55 yrs and 5'10" residing in Mumbai suburb. Pls call/whatsapp 9820054157 or 9820054507.

SM4, Khatri, 21.5.95 / 11:07 PM/5'2", MSc (HM) Pusa, Sales/Mktg Mngr MNC B'lore, 15 LPA. Seeks edu. wkg bride. GGN based family. 9810975210

NM, PQM for H'Som Veg, NM, Bahl Boy, Mar'97/ 5'9, B.Tech, Del, MBA (NMIMS-Bom), Wrkg Tata Grp, Blr, 33 LPA # 9899112611/ 9811765551

PUNJABI Arora boy Feb'91 /5'7.5"B.Tech MS USA emplyd in USA (H1B), seeks Edu. emplyd bride. Parents residing in Delhi # 9899696058

WANTED Punjabi Bride 30/5'9" Btech-MBA IIM, Working MNC 40 LPA. Caste No Bar Business family. Contact: 9407932961, 9009486689.

BRIDE WANTED
Suitable match for Punjabi Khatri High Status, Well Established Computer Engg. (MIT), MBA (XLRI, Jamshedpur), very Handsome, very Fair, Clean Shaven, Convent Educated, Non Manglik Boy 35/6'0" having own Real Estates and Power Generation business **(High rental income)** in Jamshedpur. Looking for Punjabi girl of reputed family. No Dowry will be Accepted.
CONTACT : 6207121650
88jamshedpur@gmail.com

BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

INDIAN groom 35/5'6", PhD, Scientist, Hong Kong, seeks educated, family-oriented bride. India/NRI. WhatsApp: 8950171930.

SM4 NM Garg Boy, Never Married, Nov'84, 5'-7", BE, MBA (USA), Software IT Prof. , CA-USA, H1B, Seeks US based working Girl- 9099978143

WANTED GROOMS

BY CASTE

BRAHMIN

ALLIANCE invited for a well-educated, professionally settled Brahmin Iyengar (Vadakalai) girl ,44 currently in Australia, short marriage with no issues. Cultured, family-oriented, emotionally mature, and values tradition along with a modern outlook. Professionally established, independent, and believes in mutual respect, companion ship, and shared values in marriage.Seeking a suitable alliance from groom well-educated, professionally settled Brahmin Iyengar, with good family values and a progressive mindset. Email id: mohan chari@hotmail.com . Serious and genuine inquiries only.

ODIA Brahmin family invites alliance for 31yrs daughter, fair, 5'3", B.Tech (CSE) from NIT, well placed in Seattle, USA. In search of Odia Brahmin / Karan groom with similar background. WhatsApp with complete biodata to: 9437072475

PQM for Br. daughter / never married / Nov - 83 born / BE IT - Working as SENIOR SOLUTION ARCHITECT -Bglr. in USA Based MNC / 60 LPA / Ph :+91- 9327325444 / Email : tkn1944@gmail.com

KAYASTHA

MATCH for 23/5'2"fair B.tech(CS spl.AI &ML) wrk as Software engineer in MNC em: outlook1005a@gmail.com 9868103516/9968654396

MBBS, MD Ansth Tata Kay. Bride 22.7.87/ 5'2" Mum, D. dib fel' Cardio & C care MRCP P-1 & II prf MD Dr, IT 9821212409, sinhaassociates27@gmail.com

KHATRI

SEEKING a well-settled, smart, tall boy for a 5'.5", Dec 94 born, punjabi girl, working in BLR, but ready to relocate. call/ whatsApp 9849640921

KURMI

KURMI Kshatriya Girl 28/ 5'4" Wheatish Bhopal M.P. Based Working in Dubai (80Lpa+) Engr. (Gold) MBA IIM Ahmedabad # 7415139337

VAISH

IIT Bombay M.Tech ,Gupta/-Kesharwani girl 29/5.3" currently wkg as Sr. Mngr in leading Org. Mumbai. Raipur (CG) bsd b'sn fmly 6261710043

BY COMMUNITY

KERALITE

PHD, SCIENCE Research Girl Jul'94 5'4 working UK.Seek Qual boy.Parents working Singapore #+6596660955. vsheba.oes@ gmail.com

NORTH INDIAN

BEAUTIFUL & Fair Brahmin girl working at Tier-1 US MNC, 45-50LPA, 30yrs, 5'6". Affluent family settled in Bangalore. Looking for a handsome boy 5'10" & above working in good company. M:9419181698

BY PROFESSION

DOCTORS

SUITABLE MATCH FOR A GIRL
29/5'4", MS (ENT)
Currently Senior Resident at GMC Kozhikode. Belongs to a respectable Punjabi family from Mumbai. Father is into Construction Business, Brother is Deputy Commissioner (IRS). Looking for a highly qualified professional (Medical/Civil Services/Business) from a Cultured Background.
Pref : 5'7"+, Age : 29-33 Yrs.
Call: 9820053170

Bride Groom Wanted for DOCTOR
Hindu Nadar MBBS Doctor pursuing MS (OG) – Final Year 25 Years height 5'5", fair and Good Looking Native Thoothukudi District and settled in T. Nagar, Chennai. VIP Family and Rich background
Looking for MBBS, MD, MS qualified Groom
rjrhouse201@gmail.com
9487657423 / 9514777115

OTHER PROFESSIONALS

1997, 5'6", beautiful, fair, Stanford Master's, Multi-talented / compassionate, Seeks well-qualified groom from Top 15 US schools. (E) uzsh0214@gmail.com

BY RELIGION

HINDU

DOCTOR, MS (O&G), DNB, MRCOG (London), FNB Bangalore. DOB 05.11.1990, Rohini star, Rishabh Rashi, No Dosham, Tamil Kshatriya girl. Both parents Doctor in Bhilai. Seeking PG Doctor Mob: 8103350889

WANT a well qualified and affluent groom within 35Y for a foriegn higher educated fair Bengali Ugrakshatriya bride presently persuing vocational AI courses of IITs (Height:5'2", Age:30Y). Mobile:8902425008

MBA, MCom(30/5'1"")only child,working in MNC,of bengali industrialist.Own house in South Kolkata.Seeks alliance frm prof. qualified elite family .9748704571

HINDU Girl, 05-1997/5'2", B.Tech, Software Engr., MNC, Hyderabad, Punjab origin. Seeks well-settled, prof.qual. Boy mat246k@gmail.com

GENERAL

CASTE NO BAR

OXFORD UK PhD 90/5'6" Girl. English professor in Bengaluru. Never married,Fair and slim. Father a Doctor Bengaluru native Seeks suitable well settled professional, businessmen. Preferably Bengaluru based HINDU family 8762014060, 6364741074

SLIM, Fair, B'ful, Never Married, Punjabi girl, 37, 5'3", born & brought up in Delhi. Working as Strategy Director in MNC in Bangalore, (Rs.60 LPA). Seeks smart, well-settled match based in Bangalore. Contact: 7837483747

SEEKING alliance from upper caste for Bangalore based,MArch,beautiful,1995 /5'6", daughter of Army officer.Mother, sister Doctors.Contact 9885186147

PUNJABI beautiful Girl, IT professional, MNC, Jaipur, Oct 1994/5'04" from status family seeks well qualified match from upper caste. W'App call 9983993888

DGM Mumbai, 36/5'6", Sindhi Good Looking girl, Divorced, Seeks suitable Match, Caste no bar. Call: 9969058697 / 9833592418

MALAYALI - Hindu (Ezhava) 31 yrs, MD Dermatology, girl seeks prof. qlfd. well-settled groom from Bangalore or willing to relocate.9880050624

SM 4 Rajput 35/ 5'3" MBA (Fashion Designer) b'ful Indore based homely girl. Open for all Upper Caste. Indore based preferred. 9300473725

COSMOPOLITAN

ATTRACTIVE 31, 165, well-educated (IIT+MBA), family-oriented. Affluent, cultured family. Seeks kind, compatible groom. Call or WA 9345 634 365.

NAIDU girl, 30/5'8", MBA, MNC professional, Rs. 40L, Mumbai. Seeks well-settled, qualified groom, Rs. 40L+. WhatsApp: 9426614998

SECOND MARRIAGE

MUMBAI based 34 years. Christian/ Punjabi. Divorcee, issueless. Sr. Cabin Crew with Air India, Only Pilots/ Indian Defence Grooms. Ph: 9833342212

DIVORCEE Tamil 41 PQ MNC B'lore seeks qualified Hindu groom in India without issues CNB. ndkp2025@outlook.com

Wanted educated groom for upper middle class, Bengali,Educated,working,divorcee girl 43 yrs, 5"5 contact 8527800871

BY LANGUAGE

BENGALI

31/4'10" EB Kayastha Teetotaler Dentist (MDS+MBA) from well-settled family in Kolkata. Seeks qualified, well-settled groom within 36y. No bureau. Ph/WA: 9871297730.

BENGALI Brahmin Girl 1992/5'5" Slim fair working in airlines (Grd. Crew) at Delhi, Non-Veg. Seeks well-settled, Educated Groom.:- 97698 85822

MALAYALI

LONDON PG girl, MNC BLR, Ezhava, 26 yrs, 155 cm. Native Thrissur, seeks Malayali Ezhava Hindu groom, PG, MNC, well settled. 9880220199.

P.HD GIRL 30/5'4" GERMANY 45K PA, SEEKS PROF EZH BOYS IN GERMANY PH 9747227804/9947311613

PUNJABI

PQM 4 Bangalore bsd fair B'ful Punjabi girl 32/5'6" Sr. Sft. Eng. Pkg 34 L, Family Lucknow bsd seeks Prof. Qlfd. Well Settled groom: 9415469956, 9307609110

GROOM WANTED
A WELL EDUCATED PUNJABI/HINDU GROOM FOR A POSTGRADUATE VERY FAIR CHARMING PUNJABI KSHATRIYA DAUGHTER 33 yrs. 157 cm FROM A HIGHLY EDUCATED LEADING BUSINESS FAMILY AT BHOPAL.
Email: bs6925ed@gmail.com

BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

IYER Brahmin Parents seek for their daughter. Dentist (BDS Mumbai, MPh Houston, DDS UCLA) in San Francisco, (H1B visa ,I-140 Green Card in process) , 35/5'2", Vegetarian, a suitably Qlfd. Smart & Very Well Settled Match from the USA. Iyers prefd. Send details to : malaika_n@hotmail.com .WA/M: 9833494080

HINDU Punjabi British citizen 35,5'8" fair and good looking working in UK MNC seeks professional UK settled boy. Whatsapp - 9312265430

MASTERS n Qualified Teacher Status Shia Syed B'ful girl 28yrs 168cms from UK. Teaching in London having Skilled Visa Bought up in India 9839413369, +447440774954

PQM4 Sindhi Girl 49/5'4" Never Married B.E. MBA Sr Director USA M:9820303313, E: Vivah77@gmail.com

USA SFO/Bay Area groom for convent educated Agarwal girl. Never married. Oct. '88, 5'4". M.Des. (Ivy League). Working with state govt. Mo/WhAp 9850588978.

ADVICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate / thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to claims and representations made by advertisers regarding particulars of status, age income of bride/groom.

Exit polls for stock market, TMC to get 200+, says Didi

Ahead of Counting, Suvendu Adhikari Appeals For Peace

Rohit.Khanna@timesofindia.com

Mamata Banerjee urged counting agents not to leave their desk even for a minute without a replacement

Kolkata: Ahead of the May 4 counting of votes for the assembly elections, Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee Saturday trashed exit poll results, saying they were conducted to "manipulate the stock market," and told party colleagues in a virtual address that Trinamool "is winning and winning by 200-plus seats."

Banerjee urged counting agents not to leave their tables even for a minute without a replacement and advised them not to be anxious if postal ballot results initially go against the party.

She and Trinamool national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee alleged that "BJP was using the EC" and that party workers and supporters were being selectively targeted. The CM said she would reward workers who had "withstood these attacks fearlessly and fought back".

TMC also released a list of party seniors deputed to coordinate with ground workers on May 4. Abhishek will oversee South 24 Parganas.

Meanwhile, Bengal's LoP Suvendu Adhikari called on all parties to maintain peace ahead of the counting, urging them to accept the people's mandate and avoid a repeat of the post-poll violence that followed the 2021 elections.

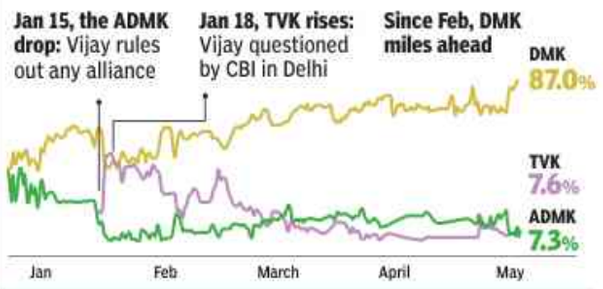
"Let there be peace in Bengal. The election is over and every political party should take part in the counting. Whatever rivalry existed during the polls should end now," Adhikari said on Friday evening as he emerged from an EVM strongroom after a visit.

Invoking the 2021 violence, in which BJP claims nearly 300 of its workers were killed, he said: "No neta is hurt in violence — I have CRPF security. Mamata ji has police protection and a bulletproof car. It is the common man and ordinary worker who suffers. We should now cooperate with Election Commission, central forces and state police."

Prediction platforms rise on crowd wisdom

BETTING BIG ON DMK

Figures are PolyMarket betting odds, May 2, 1pm



- Over **$26mn** (about ₹247cr), riding on these results
- TN dominates pool, with **over $20mn** in possible payouts
- Bengal is smaller, at over **$5mn**, but has closest odds
- Prediction markets are **illegal in India**; bets placed via crypto

▶Continued from P1

And in Puducherry, almost entirely on the AINRC-led NDA alliance (86%). In Kerala, Congress has largely been in the lead except for a few swaps in the lead with CPM since the beginning of April.

Indian law doesn't allow prediction markets to operate in India. But because Polymarket is decentralised and crypto-based, it is technically possible for Indians to use VPN and crypto to place bets on outcomes. India is the world's largest cryptocurrency user.

Earlier this month, Forbes reported that some anonymous Polymarket wallets seemed to be winning unusually often on earnings markets for companies audited by a single global consultancy firm. The wallets had India-coded names like "Kaleenbhaiya" (a character from the series Mirzapur), the report said.

Prediction markets thrive in the US. Polymarket is just one prediction market. The oldest online prediction market — Iowa Electronic Markets — has been around since 1988. There's the US-regulated Kalshi, the academically rooted PredictIt, and community-created Manifold, among others.

The idea is that collective wisdom might capture something that expert analysis can't — simply because it's from a pool of people with beliefs strong enough to place money on it.

And it's serious money.

The biggest all-time winner on Polymarket made profits of $22m with 18 correct predictions, the largest of which came from a bet on Trump becoming US president which got them $8.3m.

Prediction markets have often been accurate about future events, and have been found to be helpful with planning. A store chain in the US, for instance, used prediction market insights to determine everything from demand to when it should open the store. Obviously, they can also go wrong. For instance, in 2016, they badly misread Brexit and Donald Trump's victory.

Prediction market platforms say that, unlike a betting site, it involves people betting against each other — and not the "house", with fixed odds set by the platform. Regulators say that the difference doesn't really matter.

In India, the same model was called opinion trading but some of the biggest platforms — Probo, Better Opinions, MPL Opinio, and TradeX have shut down.

How does Polymarket work? Like a stock market for predictions for which the outcome is a neat yes or no.

The platform's markets team creates a "market" for the question, and sets down rules — how it will be resolved, when, and so on. These are carefully phrased to avoid disputes, with specific deadlines and clarifying grey areas.

When there are multiple possibilities — like these assembly elections — Polymarket creates an "event" within which many separate markets, each specific to a possible yes-or-no outcome, operate. Like will BJP win Bengal? Will the DMK win TN? And so on.

Once the market is live, users can buy "Yes" or "No" shares from each other.

A single share on Polymarket is priced between $0 and $1, and the price directly represents what the market believes is the probability of that outcome. So, if a "Yes" share on the bet is priced at 75 cents, it means market believes there's a 75% chance of it happening.

People can cash out at any point by selling their shares at whatever the price is at that point. And prices go up and down by the same logic as the stock market — how many people are willing to place money on which outcome.

At the predetermined deadline, the market is "resolved" — those with the correct prediction get $1 for each of their shares, and everyone else loses their money. If someone bought their shares at a lower price — when the odds were lower — they stand to gain more than someone who bought in when the prices — and so, the odds — were higher.

EC releases final voter turnout data 48 hours before counting

Shanmughasundaram.J
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: After a nine-day wait and just 48 hours before counting, EC released the absolute voter turnout for the April 23 election in Tamil Nadu, confirming that 4,87,98,833 voters participated in the exercise to elect members for the state's 17th assembly.

This accounts for 85.1% of the 5.73 crore registered voters across the state's 234 constituencies — the highest turnout in the state's electoral history. While this appears to be a sharp rise from the 73.6% (4.63 crore votes) recorded in the 2021 polls, in absolute terms, the increase was modest: only 24.42 lakh more voters turned up, accounting for a 4.3% rise over the number of voters in the previous assembly elections.

BATTLEGROUND TAMIL NADU

The high turnout percentage was largely due to SIR, which removed 57 lakh names, bringing down the electorate from 6.29 crore to 5.73 crore.

According to the data released Saturday, over 2.52 crore women cast their votes, compared to over 2.35 crore men. Women outvoted men by nearly 17.25 crore, representing a 2.1% higher turnout than their male counterparts. This trend has continued since the 2011 assembly elections. Of the 7,728 registered third-gender voters, 4,517 cast their ballots. At 77, the Sulur constituency recorded the highest number of transgender voters.

EC faced criticism from DMK and AIADMK for not sharing the data sooner.

TN electoral officer Archana Patnaik said EC had made elaborate arrangements across 62 counting centres, where the counting of votes from all 75,064 polling stations and received postal ballots will be done on May 4.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that our client intends to purchase certain land parcels situated at Doddanagamangala Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore District, more fully set out in the Schedule below and hereinafter referred to as **'Schedule Property'**. The details of the Schedule Property along with the respective landowner's names are more fully described in the **Schedule** below.

Any person/s having objection/s to the above mentioned transaction or any person/s claiming to have any manner of right, title, interest, claim or demand in relation to the Landowners' and/or the Schedule Property or any part thereof, may lodge his/her/their statement/s, objection/s and/or claim/s in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned, within 10 (Ten) days from the date of publication of this notice. In the absence of any genuine and/or rightful objections and/or claims, our client will proceed to finalize and conclude the proposed transaction in respect of the Schedule Property with the Landowners as if no claim/s or objection/s exist and that they have been consciously waived and abandoned by such person/s forever.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable property land situated at Doddanagamangala Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore District, more fully described in the table below:

Sl Nos	Survey Number	Extent Acres	Extent Guntas	Boundary		Landowner name
1	40/4	0	4	East	Narayana Reddy's land;	Pavuluri Laxmi Bhavani w/o N Swamy Damacherla, C. Neelima w/o Venkata Seshaiah, Chinta Bhuvanasankar Das s/o Chinta Venkatadas, Chinta Praveen Das s/o Chinta Venkatadas, Srikumar Anamala s/o late A chnadrababu, Saravanan Payani s/o late A Payani, P. Balaji s/o late A Payani, V. Sankar s/o Veerapathiram and Nulu Subramnayam s/o Nulu Venkataramaiah
				West	Gurreddy Obala Reddy's land;	
				North	Krishna Reddy's land; and	
				South	Obala Reddy's land.	
2	40/5	0	31	East	Jayarama Reddy's land;	M Adilakshmi w/o M Subramanyam Reddy, V. Hemadri s/o late V Nallama Naidu, S. Gunavathi w/o B Narasimha Reddy, Kallam Subba Reddy s/o Basivi Reddy, Bhimavarapu Priyanka w/o Bhimavarapu Venkata Naga Vijay Kumar Reddy, Villa Vijaya Varalakshmi w/o Villa Bhaskara Rao, Villa Srinivasa Rao s/o Sriramulu, Nagamani Chiluvuri w/o Sivakumar Raju Chiluvuri, Sangeetha G w/o Gopalakrishnan, Chavalli Sheshukumar s/o Subrahmanya Sarma, K Jyothi w/o late Kannaiah
				West	Muniraja Reddy's land;	
				North	Krishna Reddy's land; and	
				South	Jayarama Reddy's land.	
3	40/6	0	13	East	Chikka Gurureddy Hanumaiah's land;	1. M Subramanyam reddy s/o late M Chinnabba Reddy, 2. Velkuri Hemanth Kumar s/o V Vishwanatha Reddy, 3. R Thirumavalavan s/o A Rathinasamy, 4. A Rama w/o A Mohan Naidu
				West	Chikka Nagappa's land;	
				North	Chikka Nagappa's land; &	
				South	Thayappa's land.	
4	40/7	0	12	East	Survey No. 40/8;	J. Dhanush Reddy
				West	Survey Nos. 40/5 & 40/6;	
				North	Survey No. 40/11; and	
				South	Survey No. 45/4.	
5	40/8	0	11	East	Survey No. 40/14 belonging to M. R. Doreswamy Naidu;	Govindu Mahesh Babu s/o Govindu Thulasi Eshwaraiah, Debasis Swain s/o late Gopabandhu Swain, Devireddy Hariharanatha Reddy s/o D Mal Reddy, M. Ananda Krishnan s/o C K Munivenkatesam Chetty, P. Sunitha w/o V Bhaskar
				West	Survey No. 40/7;	
				North	Survey No. 40/11belonging to Lokanath and Pillappa; and	
				South	Land belonging to M. R. Doreswamy Naidu.	
6	40/9	0	19	East	Private Property;	Vijay Sharath Goalla s/o G N V Ramana, Prathibha Anugu w/o Vijay Sharath Goalla, Ganji Meghanath s/o Gopala Reddy G, S Radhakrishnaiah s/o S Ramakrishnaiah, Gangadhar Thota s/o Satyanarayana, Ramesh Mandarapu s/o Mandarapu Papa Rao, Yerri Jagadeesh s/o Yerri Narasimha Rao, Chavali Seshukumar s/o Subrahmanya Sarma, Kathi Madhu Babu s/o Kathi Chinna Ramudu, Buddhi Rajya Lakshmi w/o Murali Krishna Buddhi
				West	Vijaykumar's land;	
				North	K. Kanakaraj's land; and	
				South	Private Property.	
7	40/14	0	7	East	M. R. Doreswamy's land	P. Sreekanth, s/o P. Narayana Reddy and C. Chakradhar Reddy, s/o C. Manohar Reddy.
				West	Survey No. 40/8;	
				North	Pillappa & Madappa's land; and	
				South	M. R. Doreswamy's land.	
8	40/15	0	32	East	Survey No. 40/4,40/15 and 40/18;	C Somashekar s/o Late M C Chandrappa
				West	Remaining portion of Survey No. 40/13;	
				North	Land bearing Survey No.40/4 belongs to Pavulari Laxmi Bhavani and others; and	
				South	Government Road.	
9	40/17	0	8	East	Survey No. 40/3 and 40/15;	Sridevi Nimmakayala w/o Rajanikanth Pasupuleti, Kavitha Prabhu, w/o Prabhu, Jothi Suresh w/o Suresh, M Latha w/o Babu,
				West	Survey No. 40/15;	
				North	Survey No. 40/18; and	
				South	Road.	
10	40/18	0	20	East	Survey No. 40/5;	Pavuluri Laxmi Bhavani w/o N. Swamy Damacherla, C. Neelima w/o C. Venkata seshaiah, Chinta Bhuvanasankar Das s/o Chinta Venkatadas, Chinta Praveen Das s/o Chinta Venkatadas, Srikumar Anamala s/o late A Chnadrababu, Saravanan Payani s/o late A. Payani, P. Balaji s/o late A. Payani, V. Sankar s/o Veerapathiram and Nulu Subramnayam s/o Nulu Venkataramaiah
				West	Survey Nos. 40/15 & 40/17;	
				North	Survey No. 40/4; and	
				South	Survey Nos. 40/3 & 40/17.	
11	45/1	0	19	East	Survey No.45/5;	K. Ananda Kumar, S/o B Kuppuswamy Naidu
				West	Survey No.45/4;	
				North	Survey Nos. 47/1B,47/6, 47/8 & 40/9	
				South	Survey No. 44.	
12	45/2	0	13.5	East	Survey No. 45/3;	Suresh Kumar s/o P Govinda Chetty, Rajanikanth Pasupuleti s/o P Venkataswamy, Sridevi Nimmakayala w/o Rajanikanth Pasupuleti, Vijay Sharath Goalla s/o G N V Ramana, Prathibha Anugu w/o Vijay Sharath Goalla, E Ramesh s/o E Chinnamma Reddy, V Hemadri s/o Late V Nalamma Naidu, G H Jhansi Priya w/o M Venkatesh, C. M. Venkatesulu s/o late C. Munirathnam Chetty, D.P Kumar s/o D Purushotham Naidu, Samala Sreekanth Reddy s/o Samala Jaganmohan Reddy, Ganta Venkata Madhusudhan Rao s/o Ganta Venkata Srihari Rao, N Uma Sandhya w/o Ugandhar Arani, Madhuri Yaragani w/o Chinnibabu Yaragani, Parimala Gowri Tata w/o Kiran Kumar Tata, Bezawada Ashok s/o Bezawada Nageshwara Rao, Vishnu Priyanka Eluri w/o Ashok Bezawada, Prabhu Venugopal s/o late Venugopal, Purushotham Veera Venkata Satyanarayana s/o Venkateswara Rao Purushotham, Mohan Makana s/o M. Venkatarao, Suresh. R s/o Ramalingam and Battina Venkata Kishore s/o Battina Suryanarayana
				West	Survey No. 45/5;	
				North	Survey No. 47/1A1; and	
				South	Survey No. 41.	
13	45/3	0	34	East	Private property;	Suresh Kumar s/o P Govinda Chetty, Rajanikanth Pasupuleti s/o P Venkataswamy, Sridevi Nimmakayala w/o Rajanikanth Pasupuleti, Vijay Sharath Goalla s/o G N V Ramana, Prathibha Anugu w/o Vijay Sharath Goalla, E Ramesh s/o E Chinnamma Reddy, V Hemadri s/o Late V Nalamma Naidu, G H Jhansi Priya w/o M Venkatesh, C. M. Venkatesulu s/o late C. Munirathnam Chetty, D.P Kumar s/o D Purushotham Naidu, Samala Sreekanth Reddy s/o Samala Jaganmohan Reddy, Ganta Venkata Madhusudhan Rao s/o Ganta Venkata Srihari Rao, N Uma Sandhya w/o Ugandhar Arani, Madhuri Yaragani w/o Chinnibabu Yaragani, Parimala Gowri Tata w/o Kiran Kumar Tata, Bezawada Ashok s/o Bezawada Nageshwara Rao, Vishnu Priyanka Eluri w/o Ashok Bezawada, Prabhu Venugopal s/o late Venugopal, Purushotham Veera Venkata Satyanarayana s/o Venkateswara Rao Purushotham, Mohan Makana s/o M. Venkatarao, Suresh. R s/o Ramalingam and Battina Venkata Kishore s/o Battina Suryanarayana
				West	Narayana Reddy's land;	
				North	K. V. Appanna Reddy's land; and	
				South	Dasappa's land.	
14	45/4	0	19	East	Survey No. 45/1;	H Krishna Reddy s/o Hanumaiah
				West	Survey No. 40/6;	
				North	Survey Nos. 40/7, 40/8 & 40/14 & 40/6; and	
				South	Survey Nos. 42, 43 and 44.	
15	45/5	0	13.5	East	Survey No. 45/2;	Suresh Kumar s/o P. Govinda Chetty, Rajanikanth Pasupuleti s/o P. Venkataswamy, Sreedevi Nimmakayala w/o Rajanikanth Pasupuleti, Vijay Sharath Goalla s/o G. N. V Ramana, Prathibha Anugu w/o Vijay Sharath Goalla, E. Ramesh s/o E. Chinnamma Reddy, V Hemadri s/o Late V Nalamma Naidu, G H Jhansi Priya w/o M. Venkatesh, C. M Venkatesulu s/o Late C. Munirathnam Chetty, D.P Kumar s/o D Purushotham Naidu, Samala Sreekanth Reddy s/o Samala Jaganmohan reddy, Ganta Venkata Madhusudhan Rao s/o Ganta Venkata Srihari Rao, N Uma Sandhya w/o Ugandhar Arani, Madhuri Yaragani w/o Chinnibabu Yaragani, Parimala Gowri Tata w/o Kiran Kumar Tata, Bezawada Ashok s/o Bezawada Nageshwara Rao, Vishnu Priyanka Eluri w/o Ashok Bezawada, Prabhu Venugopal s/o late Venugopal, Purushotham Veera Venkata Satyanarayana s/o Venkateswara Rao Purushotham, Mohan Makana s/o M. Venkatarao, Suresh R s/o amalingam, Battina Venkata Kishore s/o Battina Suryanarayana
				West	Survey No. 45/1 & 44;	
				North	Survey Nos. 45/1, 47/1A1, 47/6, 47/7; and	
				South	Survey No. 41.	
16	46/2	1	0	East	Remaining extent of Sy no. 46 ;	Kolla Manoj s/o K. Rajagopal Naidu, Kolla Gowri w/o Kolla M.anoj, K Harish s/o Kolla Manoj, S. Shyla w/o A. S Vinothanandan, Sarakallu Srikar s/o S Chandrasekar Reddy, S. Gejalakshmi w/o Eswaran, Naga Babu Parsi s/o Ammanna Rao Parsi, Chinta Bhuvanasankar Das s/o Chintavenkatadas, Chinta Praveen Das s/o Chinta Venkatadas, Villa Vijaya Varalakshmi w/o Villa Bhaskara Rao, P. Devipriya w/o Vasudev. S, Naveen Babu Garla s/o G. Balaramaiah, Sunil Kumar N s/o Neelamegan N. K. Kadirappa Aggile s/o A. Munaswamy
				West	Survey Nos. 45/3, 47/2, 47/1A2;	
				North	Survey Nos. 47/4 and 47/1A3;	
				South	Survey Nos. 36 & 45/3.	
17	47/1A1	0	24	East	Survey Nos. 47/1A2, 47/2, 47/4, 47/5;	Rajanikanth Pasupuleti, s/o of P.Venkataswamy, Vijay Sharath Goalla, s/o G. N. V. Ramana, Mahesh Ganti, s/o G. Rama Mohana Rao, Satya Lakshmi Krishna Ganesh Mynampati, s/o Late Hrushikesa Rao, Vunnam Manoj Kumar Reddy, s/o Vunnam Venkata Reddy, Singarapu Vinay Kumar s/o of Singarapu Chandraiah, Bhimavarapu Priyanka, w/o Bhimavarapu Venkata Naga Vijaya Kumar Reddy, Prabhakar. N, s/o of Late N. Krishnaiah, Vinod Kumar Gunda, s/o of Gunda Satyanarayana and Villa Bhaskara Rao, s/o of Sriramulu
				West	Survey No.47/1B and 47/7;	
				North	Survey No.48/6; &	
				South	Survey Nos. 45/2 , 45/3 and 45/3.	
18	47/1A2	0	4	East	Survey No. 46 and 47/1A3;	B. Anjaneyulu, Chetty, s/o Radha Krishnaiah Chetty
				West	Property belonging to Krishna Reddy;	
				North	47/4; &	
				South	Survey No. 47/2.	
19	47/4	0	12	East	Property of Muni Reddy;	P. Suresh Kumar, s/o of P. Govinda Chetty, Y. D. Kesavulu Reddy, s/o of Y. Dora Swamy Reddy, G. S. Janikirami Reddy, s/o of late G. Sriramulu Reddy, S. Sheela, w/o M. Chandra Mohan, S. Shyla, w/o A. S. Vonothanandan and Neesha K, w/o M. Vinayagamoorthy
				West	Property of Doddamuni Reddy;	
				North	Property of Hanumappa Reddy; and	
				South	Property of H. Krishna Reddy.	
20	47/5	0	8	East	Property of Krishna Reddy;	R. Mahesh, s/o of R. Rajendra Nayudu, Ashwini G, d/o Guruswamy and V. Hemadri, s/o of V. Nallama Naidu.
				West	Property of Munireddy;	
				North	Property of Krishna Reddy; and	
				South	Property of Krishna Reddy;	
21	47/1A3	0	22	East	Survey No.47/1A4;	B. J. Lokesh, s/o of B. Janardhana, K.V. Sathya Sreenivasa Kumar, s/o Rangaiah, K. Narayana Reddy, s/o of K. Sidda Reddy, N.P. Pushpalatha, w/o N.P. Radha Krishna Naidu, Hemalatha Katari, w/o Praveen Katari, Swaroopa, w/o K. Gopi Krishna, Ranamma. M. w/o G.M. Hari Krishna, Rasineni Vijaya Lakshmi w/o R. Bhaskar Naidu, Kiran K.C., s/o Chalapathy M, A. Narasimhulu Naidu, s/o A. Sreenivasulu Naidu and Vamsi Krishna Cholavati, s/o Surya Narayana. C.
				West	Survey No.47/4 and 47/5;	
				North	Survey No.48/4 and 48/5; and	
				South	Survey No.46.	
22	47/1A4	0	24	East	Survey No. 54;	B. Subhash Chand Jain, s/o Late R. Bastimal Jain.
				West	Survey No. 47/1A3;	
				North	Survey No. 48/4; and	
				South	Survey No. 46.	
23	47/1B	0	11	East	Survey No. 47/8	A Chandrashekhar, s/o late Anjana Reddy
				West	Survey No. 40/9;	
				North	Survey Nos. 48/7; and	
				South	Survey No. 45/1.	
24	47/8	0	5	East	Sy no. 47/6	A Chandrashekhar, s/o late Anjana Reddy
				West	Sy no. 47/1B	
				North	Sy no.48/7	
				South	Sy no. 45/1	
25	47/2	0	5	East	Sy no. 46	P. Sunitha w/o V. Bhaskar, B. Madhava Kumar, s/o Raghunandana Chetty, Noothi Hemadri, s/o Noothi Muni Krishna and Noothi Rajesh, s/o Noothi Muni Krishna.
				West	Survey No. 47/1A1;	
				North	Property of Sidda Reddy; and	
				South	Survey No. 45/3.	
26	47/3	0	1	East	Survey No. 47/1A4;	Noothi Hemadri, s/o Noothi Munikrishna.
				West	Survey No. 47/1A3;	
				North	Survey No. 47/1A4; and	
				South	Survey No. 46.	
27	47/6	0	5	East	Survey No.47/7	A. Suresh Kumar s/o late Anjana Reddy
				West	Survey No.47/8	
				North	Survey No.48/6 and 48/7	
				South	Survey No.45/1 and 45/5	
28	47/7	0	5	East	Survey No.47/1A1	A Shankar Reddy s/o late Anjana Reddy
				West	Survey No.47/6	
				North	Survey No.48/6	
				South	Survey No.45/5	
29	48/7 (old sy no.)	0	14	East	Survey No. 48/6;	V. Venkataswamy Reddy s/o late Venkatagiridarappa, K R Ambuja w/o H.V Ramaswmi Reddy, A Venkataswami Reddy- Muniswami Reddy, Bhuvan Kumar s/o Thimmaraya Reddy
				West	Survey Nos. 40/9 & 48/7;	
				North	Remaining portion of same survey number; and	
				South	Survey No. 47/1B, 47/6 and 47/8.	
30	48/4	0	15.04	East	Survey No. 49;	Matam Madhava Reddy s/o M. Munirathnam Reddy, G. Surya Prathap s/o G. Govindaswamy and V. Murali Reddy s/o Venugopal Reddy
				West	Survey No. 48/5;	
				North	Survey No. 48/3; and	
				South	Survey No. 47/1A3, 47/3 and 47/1A4;	
31	48/5	0	17.05	East	Survey No. 48/4;	Alam Vijaya Shekar s/o A. Doraswamy Naidu, P Sridhar s/o P. Kannaiah, Vijaya Sharath Golla s/o G N.V. Ramana, A. Hemanth s/o A R Haribabu, C. Munirathnam s/o Late Ramaiah, Alavali Hemalatha w/o Kurella Charan Kumar, T. Lakshmi Kantham w/o T. Sudhakara Chetty, Garre Rangaiah s/o Balaiah, K P. Bhargavi d/o K. M Prasanna Kumar, T. P Sujatha w/o T. P. Prashanth.
				West	Survey No. 48/6 old Sy no.48/2);	
				North	Pathway and Survey No. 48/2 & 48/3; and	
				South	Survey No. 47/5 and 47/1A3.	

Date: May 03, 2026
Place: Bengaluru

Mr. Harsha Sudhindra - Partner,
Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Advocates and Solicitors,
Prestige Falcon Tower, 3rd Floor, Brunton Road, Craig Park Layout,
Victoria Layout, Bangalore – 560 025; Tel. No.: (91-80) 67922000

BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल)

ब्रिज, रोपवे, टनल एण्ड अदर इन्फास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉरपोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लिमिटेड
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य अवस्थापना विकास निगम लिमिटेड
प्रधान कार्यालयः अवस्थापना भवन, 583-ड, राजकीय आईटीआई
निरंजनपुर के सामने, माजरा, सहारनपुर रोड, देहरादून- 248001
CIN No - U45203UR2008SGC032591 टेलीफैक्स- 0135-2522941, ई-मेल - bridcul@gmail.com

Ref :- 738/BRIDCUL- 396(XV)/26 Dated: 02/05/2026

E-Tendering

On behalf of Hon'ble, Governor of Uttarakhand, E-Tenders are invited by Managing Director BRIDCUL, for the below work at Sr.no. 1 from the Contractors registered with any Govt./Semi Govt./PSU/Nigam in suitable Class & Category and for work at Sr. no. 2 from the Contractors registered with BRIDCUL only in Category-III (Upto 2 Cr.) for the work given as below:-

S. No	Ref No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (In Lac including GST)	Earnest Money (In Lac)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Time Period
1	BRIDCUL/HQ DDN/06/2026-27	SITC of 3 nos. lift at Sub District Hospital, Purola Distt. Uttarakashi.	93.10	1.86	5000 + 18% GST	18 Month
2	BRIDCUL/HQ DDN/07/2026-27	Electrification & Related works of Admin building, Haat & Festive Ground at Jadung (Uttarakashi) Uttarakhand	161.81	3.24	5000 + 18% GST	15 Month

For above tenders, document download start date is 06.05.2026 and Bid submission end date is 20.05.2026 at 1500 Hrs. The details of e-tender of above works can be obtained directly from website **https://uktenders.gov.in**

Changes, if any will be intimated only through website **https://uktenders.gov.in**

DGM (HQ)

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor,
BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No.DGM-1/BSWML/PMC/Tend/01/2026-27 Date: 02.05.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Project Cost (in Rs.)	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Contract Period
1	Appointment of PMC for the work of Providing Scientific closure at Landfill site of Bayyappanahalli Sy.No.80 & Bagaluru Sy.No. 271 and control of Fly Menace using spraying of enzymes and development of surrounding villages by creating required infrastructure in Byatarayanpura Constituency.	64,84,436/-	1,29,690/-	11 Months

1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in kpp portal: **11.05.2026** before **5:30 pm.**
2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: **12.05.2026** at **15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office.
3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender **21.05.2026** before **4:00 pm**. 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **22.05.2026** after **4:30 pm**.

More details can be downloaded from website - **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy General Manager -1
BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/473/CCL/2026-27

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor,
BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No.DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 02.05.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Only Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Contract Period
1	Providing Scientific Closure at landfill site of Bayyappanahalli Sy. No. 80 & Bagaluru Sy No.271 and control of fly menace using spraying of enzymes and development of surrounding villages by creating required infrastructure in Byatarayanapura Constituency.	7605.14	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.75,05,150/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank	11 Months

1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in kpp portal: **11.05.2026** before **5:30 pm.**
2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: **12.05.2026** at **15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office.
3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender **21.05.2026** before **4:00 pm**. 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **22.05.2026** after **4:30 pm**.

More details can be downloaded from website - **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy General Manager -1
BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/472/CCL/2026-27

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-2,
1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.

No: DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/03/2026-27 Date: 02-05-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

1) **The Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru** invites bids from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit tenders for works given in the table below through KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause-3 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.
2) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3) Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) Excluding GST	EMD Amount (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document	Contract Completion Period
1	Storm Water Drain from Kannur-Chikkagubbi-Doddagubbi-Rampura Lake-Yelemale Chatty Lake and Culverts Approch Roads.	8005.49	**Rs. 1,00,000/-** through e-Payment under of the following i.e., Online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the Balance **Rs. 79,05,490/-** by Bank Guarantee / FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank	As per KPP Portal	**11 Months**

1) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **12-05-2026 at 15.00 Hours in Office of the Chief Engineer and Chief General Manager (Tech) BSWML, BBMP Building, 1st Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.**
2) Technical Documents along with necessary information / documents must be uploaded to the KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document **on or before 16.00 hours of 22-05-2026** and First Folder containing the Technical bid will be Opened through KPP Portal only on **25-05-2026 after 16.30 Hours at the stipulated Venue,** in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3) The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPP Portal for the latest information related to the Tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.** KPP Portal help desk Telephone Numbers are: **080-22371090 / 22373788.** The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP Portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4) Any corrigendum / addendum will be published in the KPP Portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2
BSWML

DIPR/CP/462/Adverto/2026-27

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಸಿವಿಲ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್- eewmccmys@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಸಾ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ-03/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಜಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್ 05/ 2026-27, ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.04.2026	08	312.00	29.04.2026	06.05.2026 ರಿಂದ 07.05.2026	07.05.2026 ರಿಂದ 08.05.2026
				ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ವರೆಗೆ	ಸಂಜೆ 5.15 ರ ನಂತರ
2	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-06/ 2026-27, ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.04.2026	07	369.16	30.04.2026	08.05.2026	11.05.2026
				ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ರ ನಂತರ
3	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-07/2026-27, ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.04.2026	10	155.44	04.05.2026	18.05.2026	19.05.2026
				ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ವರೆಗೆ	ಸಂಜೆ 5.15 ರ ನಂತರ

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ /ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/131/ಖಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2026-27

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

OPEN GLOBAL E-TENDER

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 21/04/2026. The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link **www.ireps.gov.in.** Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link **www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply.** Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or AMM/HQ, 9163340713. **Office Address:** Office of The PCMM /CLW/Chittaranjan. **Sl. No.:[1]. Tender No.: 73261018. Brief Description of Item:** Axle Box Bearing for WAP-5 Loco as per Specn. No:- IA016-01494 Rev. 2. **[Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. Quantity:**545.00 Numbers. **Earnest Money Deposit:** ₹ 913200.00 (INR)/₹ 0.00 (USD). **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST):**25/05/2026 at11:00 AM.

PR5/333 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan.

visit us on:www.facebook.com/clwrailways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice
04 MYS 2026 Dated: 27.04.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of Work	Approx. Value (in Rs.)
Supply & Installation of Oil Fired Steam Boiler Capacity 2000 kg. **Tender No. L9256075B**	Rs. 98,74,000.00

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 10.30 hrs on 18.05.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Materials Manager,
PUB/80/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27 Mysuru

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR @SWRMYS @SWRAILWAYHQ @swr_railways

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836-2741277, 0836-2748374,
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836-2741277,
Email Id: dsdharwad@gmail.com

ಕ್ರ: ಜಿಆಧಾ/ಎ.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್/02/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22-04-2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ: 2026-2027 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಯಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ 32 ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಡಿ. 04-ಸ್ವೀಪರ್, 02-ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ, 01-ಲ್ಯಾಬ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಷಿಯನ್, 01-ಫಾರ್ಮಾಸಿಸ್ಟ, 03-ಶುಶ್ರೂಷಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಕುರಿತು.

2026-2027 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಯಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ 32 ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಡಿ. 04 ಸ್ವೀಪರ್, 02-ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ, 01-ಲ್ಯಾಬ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಷಿಯನ್, 01-ಫಾರ್ಮಾಸಿಸ್ಟ, 03-ಶುಶ್ರೂಷಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಮತ್ತು ಆಸಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999-2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದ್ವಿ-ಬಿಡ್ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ) ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ (ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1) ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22-04-2026 ರಿಂದ 06-05-2026ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ 2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08-05-2026 ರಂದು 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11-05-2026 ರಂದು 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಎಲ್ಲ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ದಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ

ಜಿಆಧಾಆ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/112/ಜುಲೈ2026-27/2026-27

The Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited

D-2, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007
PH NO.: 0674-2546030, 2540273, 2540417, 2540974
E-mail ID: omfed@yahoo.com
www.omfed.com

6001/24/2627

E-Tender

Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd. (OMFED) invites online tenders from Manufacturer or its Authorized Distributor/ Dealer for supply of Visi Cooler, Chest Cooler & Deep Freezer. The tender is invited through e-Procurement Portal of Govt. of Odisha (**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**) & **www.omfed.com**. Availability of bid documents: 01.05.2026 (10.00 AM) to 18.05.2026 (2.00 PM). Last date of online submission: 18.05.2026 up to 2.00 PM and Opening of Technical bids: 18.05.2026 (3.00) PM at OMFED Corporate Office. OMFED reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Managing Director
OIPR-6001/6063/1/26-27/0013

25001/73/2627

By E_Mail/e-Despatch
E_Mail ID: serwcbaripada@gmail.com
Ph-No-06792-261343/261344
Gangraj, Baripada

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA

Office Order No 2472 / Dt :28.04.26

1st Corrigendum to National Competitive Bidding e_procurement Notice No. 2353/Road work Dt.20.04.2026 (NCB No-410).

Due to unavoidable circumstances the important dates of tendering process for road works are being changed as follows.

Sl No	Item	Time Schedule as per Original NCB	Time Schedule as per Corrigendum Notice
1	Availability of tender On-line for bidding	28.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M to 13.05.2026 up to 05.00 P.M	05.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M to 19.05.2026 up to 05.00 P.M
2	Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification if any	12.05.2026 up to 01.00 P.M	18.05.2026 up to 05.00 P.M
3	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid	14.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M	20.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M
4	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	Will be intimated later	Will be intimated later

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Er. A.K Naik
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W. CIRCLE, BARIPADA
OIPR-25001/25130/1/26-27/0006

25001/82/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR.
AT-CHANDIKHOL, PO- SUNGUDA, JAJPUR -754296,
Email-serw_kpd@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online RCK- 07/26 Letter No. 2555 Date : 27/04/2026

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. **Name of the work** : Tender for the Road works under (MMSY-TRIP & Impvt. Existing RD) in the Dist. of Kendrapara & Jajpur.
2. **Class of Contractor** : As specified in the Column-6 of the Annexure.
3. **Time of Completion** : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure.
4. **Detail Projects** : As per Annexure attached
5. **Other Details** :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	Tender Online RCK - 07/26	11.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	28.05.2026 to 05.00 P.M.	28.05.2026 up to 02.00 P.M.	29.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur
OIPR-25001/25129/1/26-27/0003

25001/44/2627

Ph. 06670-235504
E_Mail: serwbpt@yahoo.com

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA

Bid identification No.: BPT/Online-01/2026-27 Date-20.04.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR BUILDING WORKS IN ODISHA
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of CDPO Building Works in the District of Kalahandi and Nuapada.
2. No of Works : 03 Nos.
3. Location details : Kalahandi & Nuapada District
4. Estimated Cost : As per NIT.
5. Period of Completion : As per NIT.
6. Cost of tender paper : Rs.10,000/- per set.
7. Other details :

Availability of tender for online bidding		Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
From	To		
05.05.2026 11.00 A.M.	20.05.2026 5.00 P.M.	19.05.2026	21.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website "**www.tendersorissa.gov.in**"

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna

OIPR-25001/25102/1/26-27/0001

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ

ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ./ಲೋ.ಇ.ವಿ.ಕಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ-1/ ಮ.ಟೆಂಡರ.ಪ್ರ-35/2025-26/391 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29-04-2026

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ (Call-2) ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ./ಲೋ.ಇ.ವಿ.ಕಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ-1/ಟೆಂಡರ-35/2025-26/5604 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04-03-2026

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖದ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 4059-80-051-0-60-132-CMIDP ಯೋಜನೆ ಆಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದ **Construction of Cement Concrete Road from Karnakod Road to Sonagarjaddi, NH-66 to Kabbinhakkala Road, Mogehalla Road to Basakuli Road, Krishnakere to Heggar, Jaddi to Kasaball, NH-66 to Bommanakodlu and Constuction of Retaining Wall near Kranshakere Kenel in Nagarbastikere Gram Panchayat in Honavar Taluk U K Dist Under CMIDP During 2025-26 PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 32931/CALL-2** ರೂ. 100.88 ಲಕ್ಷದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರನ (Call-2) ದಿನಾಂಕದ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 08-05-2026 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 11-05-2026 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (3) ಟೆಂಡರನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 12-05-2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (4) ಟೆಂಡರನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 14-05-2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/96/26-27 dt. 30.04.2026

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

9th Floor, Vishweshwaraiah Towers, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi
Bengaluru-560 001. Telephone: 080-22866302/22867172
e-mail: dmablr@gmail.com. Website: www.municipaladmn.gov.in

No.: 26031/DMA/DEV/ELE(LED)/3/2026 Date: 02.05.2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NOTIFICATION

The project for replacement of conventional street lights with energy-efficient LED street lights along with operation and maintenance in all City Corporations/ Urban Local Bodies of the State is proposed to be implemented under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. In this regard, the Directorate of Municipal Administration has invited interested companies to submit their price quotations for

1) Rates of CCMS Integrated Smart Energy Meter in accordance with the prevailing market rates **on or before (Refer KPPP).** Accordingly, an Expression of Interest has been invited through the KPPP portal to obtain the price details.

2) Rates of LED street lights and Flood lights of various Wattages in accordance with the prevailing market rates **on or before (Refer KPPP).** Accordingly, an Expression of Interest has been invited through the KPPP portal to obtain the price details.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Rate in Rs.
1	RATES OF CCMS Integrated Smart Energy Meter. DMA/2026-27/5E7795	
	RATES OF LED STREET LIGHT and Flood LIGHTS. OF VARIOUS WATTAGES (DMA/2026-27/5E7796)	

The documents relating to the Technical specifications of CCMS Integrated Smart Energy Meter & "RATES OF LED STREET LIGHTS and FLOOD LIGHTS OF VARIOUS WATTAGES" can be obtained from the KPPP website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Director
Directorate of Municipal Administration, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/450/SA/2026-27

30001/14/2627

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED

OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LTD. — Mining Happiness

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Sl. No.	NIT No.	Job Description	Availability of Tender Document	Bid Due Date
1	OMC/E-PROC/ C&P/012/ 2026-27 dated 30/04/2026	Group Health Insurance for Regular and Retired Employees and their Family Members of OMC	04-05-2026	25-05-2026

All other details can be seen from the Tender Document available on the e-procurement portal of the Government of Odisha (**www.tendersodisha.gov.in**) and on the website of OMC (**www.omcltd.in**). OMC reserves the right to reject any/all the bids or to annul the bidding process, without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Head (C&P)

OIPR-30001/30005/1/26-27/0014

39001/8/2627

ODISHA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD

Plot No. 1800 (P), Baramunda, Post-Khandagiri,
Near Indian Oil Petrol Pump Bhubaneswar,
Ph. No.0674-2351311, Fax: 0674-2351316,
Email: osamboard99@yahoo.com, Website: osamboard.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Estt II- 03/2026 Date: 29.04.2026

Proposals are invited from reputed Institutions/Experienced firms/Companies and Agencies for the purpose of:

"SELECTION OF A CONSULTANT FOR SETTING UP PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU)".

The detailed Request for Proposal (RFP), including scope of work, eligibility criteria, and terms & conditions, can be downloaded from the official website: **http://osamb.odisha.gov.in** on 30.05.2026. Last date for submission of Proposal 21.05.2026 up to 4 PM.

- The Authority, OSAM Board reserve the right to accept or reject any proposal without assigning any reason.
- Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.
- Bidders are advised to regularly check the website for updates / corrigendum.

Sd/-
General Manager
OSAM Board, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-39001/39024/1/26-27/0002

39001/7/2627

ODISHA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD

Plot No. 1800 (P), Baramunda, Post-Khandagiri,
Near Indian Oil Petrol Pump Bhubaneswar,
Ph. No.0674-2351311, Fax: 0674-2351316,
Email: osamboard99@yahoo.com, Website: osamboard.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Estt II- 13/2024 Date: 29.04.2026

Proposals are invited from reputed Institutions/Experienced firms/Companies and Agencies for the purpose of:

"SELECTION OF A CONSULTANT FOR DEVELOPING RECRUITMENT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT POLICY DOCUMENT".

The detailed Request for Proposal (RFP), including scope of work, eligibility criteria, and terms & conditions, can be downloaded from the official website: **http://osamb.odisha.gov.in** on 30.04.2026. Last date for submission of Proposal 21.05.2026 up to 4 PM.

- The Authority, OSAM Board reserve the right to accept or reject any proposal without assigning any reason.
- Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.
- Bidders are advised to regularly check the website for updates / corrigendum.

Sd/-
General Manager
OSAM Board, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-39001/39024/1/26-27/0001

4001/55/2627

idco — Your power to grow — ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation

ODISHA — NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR.

Tender Call Notice No H.O./P&C/EST/E-3008/01/2025 11654 Dated :-22/04/2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement

Name of the Work : **"Construction Of Proposed (New) SFRC/RCC Pre-Cast Compound Wall For Textile Park, Balabhadrapur, Mouza Balabhadrapur, Keonjhar**
Estimated cost : **Rs.133.26** lakhs (apprx).
Period of completion : 05 (Five) calendar months.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2

High Humidity Slows Body's Natural Cooling System, Putting Extra Strain On Organs

SUMMER SUN SPARES NONE; HERE'S HOW TO STAY SAFE

Swedha.Radhakrishnan@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru's heat is no longer just uncomfortable — doctors say it is starting to wear down the body, organ by organ, and that this is the season to get serious about self- care. As temperatures climb, and hot, dry winds blow through the city, clinicians are seeing more patients with dehydration, exhaustion, sunburn, eye irritation, and breathing trouble. High humidity makes it harder for sweat to evaporate, slowing the body's natural cooling system and putting extra strain on the heart, kidneys, and brain. Those spending long hours outdoors-traffic police, marketing executives, street vendors, as well as children and older adults -- are among the most vulnerable.

Doctors say simple measures-drinking water regularly, avoiding midday sun and using basic protection such as helmets, visors, sunglasses, sunscreen lotions, and umbrellas can sharply cut the risk of serious heat-related illness.

CARE FOR EYES

Wear sunglasses with 100% UV protection (UV400)

Use a helmet visor while riding

Stay hydrated to prevent dryness

Use lubricating eye drops if prescribed

BUYING SUNGLASSES

Choose **UV400 / 100% UV protection** (blocks UVA + UVB)

Pick **wrap-around or large frames** for side coverage

Dark lenses **do not guarantee protection**

Polarised lenses reduce glare (still need UV400)

Ensure proper fit; no visual distortion

CARE FOR SKIN

Use an **umbrella or wear a wide-brimmed hat**

Avoid sun between **10am and 2pm**

Wear loose, light-coloured cotton clothes

Take cool showers to prevent prickly heat

Apply **sunscreen twice daily**

CHOOSING SUNSCREEN

SPF 30+ **(SPF 50 offers slightly higher protection)**

Broad-spectrum with PA+++ or higher

Water-resistant (40–80 minutes)

Suitable for your skin type

Check **ingredients and expiry date**

Protect eyes from UV

Ophthalmologists say summer routinely brings a spike in complaints of dryness, redness, itching and a gritty or burning sensation, particularly among people exposed to sun and dust on the roads. "Such cases have increased by nearly 20%. Constant exposure to sunlight can irritate the eyes and, over time, cause lasting damage," said Dr M B Dinesh, senior cataract and refractive surgeon at Maxivision Super Speciality Eye Hospitals.

While many dismiss these as minor irritations, specialists warn that repeated unprotected exposure to ultraviolet rays can, over time, damage the eye's surface and lens. "Long-term UV exposure has been linked to conditions such as cataracts, photokeratitis, and pterygium, all of which can affect vision if left untreated," he said.

Skin barrier under stress

Sunburn, tanning, prickly heat and sun-induced rashes intensify with summer. Face, neck, arms and hands, which are exposed directly to sunlight, are at the highest risk, especially in people with outdoor jobs or sensitive skin. "We advise patients to bathe twice a day and use cold-water sponging for immediate relief from prickly heat. People who sweat less are also prone to dry, itchy skin, especially children and senior citizens. Staying hydrated is essential," said Dr J Benedict Reji, assistant professor of dermatology at Government Stanley Medical College Hospital. Dermatologists say loose cotton clothing, hats or umbrellas are a must when people are stepping out in the sun. They also recommend liberal use of broad-spectrum sunscreen — at least SPF 30, ideally SPF 50 with a PA+++ rating must be applied twice a day. Children and older adults, who tend to sweat less and may not notice early signs of overheating, are especially prone to itchy, inflamed skin and need closer monitoring, they said.

Silent strain on kidneys, heart

Nephrologists warn that repeated days of heavy sweating without adequate fluid intake can reduce blood volume, cutting blood flow to the kidneys and increasing the risk of acute kidney injury. "Summer also sees a sharp rise in kidney stone cases. Reduced water intake increases the concentration of minerals such as calcium and uric acid, which can crystallise and form stones," said Dr Jayanivash J, consultant nephrologist at SIMS Hospital. Symptoms such as dizziness, blackouts, very dark urine or a sharp drop in urine output should prompt urgent medical review, he added.

Cardiologists caution that heat forces the heart to work harder as blood vessels widen to release heat through the skin. Dehydration thickens the blood and can raise the risk of clots. "People who stand for prolonged periods or travel long distances are particularly vulnerable to blood clots in legs, which can affect blood flow to heart," said Dr J Ashok Kumar from Revathi Medical Centre.

Brain & nerves: Confusion

Neurologists say extreme heat can disrupt the brain's ability to regulate temperature and maintain normal function. Heat exhaustion often shows up first as fatigue, irritability, agitation or confusion, while heat stroke — a medical emergency — can cause disorientation, seizures or loss of consciousness as body temperature soars. "Heat exhaustion is common in people who present with agitation, confusion and fatigue. Heat stroke is far more severe. During summer, we see an increase in migraine and seizure cases. Even those with no history of seizures may experience one due to excessive sweating and electrolyte imbalance," said Dr S Srividhya, associate consultant, Department of Neurology, Rela Hospital. For vulnerable people, it is important to replenish electrolytes by drinking water along with oral rehydration solutions, salted lemon or buttermilk, or low-sugar electrolyte drinks, especially after heavy sweating.

HOW TO CARE FOR THE OTHER ORGANS

BLOCK THE BURN

BRAIN

- **Drink water frequently,** even before you feel thirsty
- **Avoid strenuous outdoor activity** during peak heat
- **Rest immediately if you feel dizzy** or confused
- **Keep rooms well ventilated** or use a fan/AC

KIDNEYS

- **Aim for 2.5–3 litres of fluids a day** (if not restricted by your doctor)
- **Do not ignore thirst,** especially when outdoors
- **Watch for reduced urine or dark-coloured urine** as warning signs

HEART

- **Avoid prolonged direct exposure to** sun
- **Take short walking and water breaks** during long journeys

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

- Schedule **outdoor activity before 10am or after 4pm**
- **Never leave children or elderly** in parked vehicles
- **Eat fresh fruits and water-rich foods;** avoid alcohol and excess caffeine, take ORS when required
- **Seek medical help for confusion, fainting,** which may signal heatstroke

Two FIRs against defector MP Pathak? Punjab cops won't say

Times News Network

Chandigarh/New Delhi: Punjab police are believed to have filed two FIRs against Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak, who switched from AAP to BJP a week ago along with six others.

While sources close to govt confirmed the FIRs, no one was willing to talk about it. No official statement on the nature of the allegations had been issued by the police till Saturday night but sources said Pathak faced non-bailable charges.

Repeated attempts to contact DGP Gaurav Yadav and AAP state spokesperson Baltej Pannu went unanswered. The person who answered Pathak's phone said he was not available and said he didn't know about any FIR. While political speculation swirled, video footage emerged purportedly showing Pathak leaving through a rear exit in a white SUV on Saturday, some time before Punjab police arrived at his Pandara Park residence in Delhi.

Pathak, a former IIT-Delhi professor, was one of the key strategists for AAP during the 2022 assembly election. The timing of the FIRs triggered a political debate, with BJP and SAD alleging "political vendetta". Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar said his party would not be intimidated by FIRs filed by the AAP govt, and alleged these actions were meant to "divert attention" from CM Bhagwant Mann's alleged conduct in the assembly.

Jakhar said those who were once considered loyal by AAP are being labelled negatively overnight after they left the party. This is an attempt to build pressure on remaining members and prevent further defections, he alleged.SAD member Bikram Singh Majithia posted on X, "Selective targeting of those who fall out with AAP. Sandeep Pathak was once a trusted aide of Bhagwant Mann and Arvind Kejriwal, a key power centre... After shifting loyalties, FIRs under non-bailable sections point to possible vendetta politics. From influence to investigation, the shift raises serious questions."

Security was tightened and additional personnel were deployed outside Pathak's home in Delhi. In the afternoon, Delhi police teams were seen placing barricades in the vicinity as part of precautionary arrangements.

BJP questioned AAP's priorities in what it alleged was a deteriorating law and order situation in Punjab. BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the state has been battling a drug menace and criminals had been targeting offices of even police officers.

Centre names lyricist Prasoon Joshi as new Prasar Bharati chief

Times News Network

New Delhi: The Centre on Saturday appointed noted lyricist and communications expert **Prasoon Joshi** as chairman of Prasar Bharati, filling a key vacancy at the public broadcaster that has been without a full-time head since Dec.

Joshi, who is currently chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification, brings with him decades of experience across advertising, cinema, literature and public communication. His appointment comes at a time when the national broadcaster is navigating a rapid shift towards digital platforms and evolving audience preferences.

Union information and broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw described Joshi as a "rare creative spirit", expressing confidence that his leadership would infuse "renewed energy, deeper purpose and a fresh creative voice" into the organisation.

The post had been vacant since the resignation of former IAS officer Navneet Kumar Sehgal in Dec last year. An award-winning lyricist and advertising professional, Joshi has led major global campaigns and previously served as CEO of McCann World Group India and chairman for Asia Pacific. His tenure at the film certification body since 2017 has been marked by what officials described as a "balanced approach" between creative expression and regulatory oversight.

HC: Clearing cut-off no claim to IIM seat

MBA Aspirant Fails To Prove Rights Breach

Pinto.Deepak
@timesofindia.com

The petitioner failed to clear the sectional cut-off, making his claims of discrimination incorrect, IIM Mumbai clarified

Hyderabad: Telangana high court has dismissed a writ petition challenging IIM-Mumbai's admission process for its 2026-28 MBA programme, ruling that the petitioner failed to prove any violation of his legal rights.

Justice Nagesh Bheemapaka in his judgment noted that the petitioner sought to convert a highly competitive selection process into a matter of personal right based on his overall score, while ignoring the mandatory sectional requirements of the admission policy.

The 24-year-old petitioner from Gundla Pochampally near Hyderabad, secured 99.52 overall percentile in CAT-2025 and moved the court after being excluded from the interview stage. He contended that his high scores should have entitled him to an interview call and alleged that the authorities were arbitrary in their selection. He also questioned why the institute failed to respond to his emails seeking clarification on his status.

IIM Mumbai clarified that merely clearing the minimum threshold did not guarantee a spot in the next stage of the selection process. The institute said due to the high volume of applications, it raised the sectional cut-off for Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning section to 93.50 percentile.

As the petitioner secured 92.87 percentile in that section, he fell short of the required benchmark. The institute also said that other candidates the petitioner compared himself to cleared the revised sectional cut-offs, making his claims of discrimination factually incorrect.

Justice Bheemapaka observed that academic bodies have the exclusive authority to fix admission criteria, and courts should not interfere with these standards, unless these are proven to be mala fide or illegal.

The HC further said that large-scale admission processes do not place a legal obligation on institutions to engage in individual correspondence with every unsuccessful candidate. The court added that the institute's decision was based on objective criteria applied uniformly to all applicants, ensuring a fair and transparent process.

The HC upheld the institute's policy and stated the petitioner had no right to demand a seat in the interview.

Citing wife's social media conduct, court gives divorce

Ashish.Mehta
@timesofindia.com

AI

The couple from Jaipur got married in 2015

Jaipur: A family court in Jaipur has granted divorce to a man and held that objectionable social media activity by his wife amounted to mental cruelty. "The ruling highlights that online behaviour may be treated as relevant evidence in matrimonial disputes where it causes humiliation or emotional trauma to a spouse," D S Shekhawat, the husband's counsel, told **TOI** about the April 17 order that was uploaded on Saturday.

The court ruled that sharing objectionable photos on social media caused emotional distress and damaged the husband's dignity and social reputation. "If a married woman gets objectionable photos clicked with another man and shares them on social media platforms, such conduct can cause humiliation and mental agony to the husband and would amount to mental cruelty," it said.

The couple from Jaipur got married in 2015. "The husband later approached the court under Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act seeking dissolution of the marriage, alleging continuous disputes soon after the wedding," Shekhawat said. The man claimed his wife frequently quarrelled with him, used abusive language and posted objectionable content online.

Examining witness statements, documentary evidence and the conduct of both parties over a decade, the court noted the couple had been living apart for a long time and repeated attempts at reconciliation had failed.

Forcing the spouse to sever ties with his parents, publicly humiliating him through objectionable online posts, and maintaining hostile behaviour inflicted serious emotional distress, the court held, adding the marriage had broken down beyond repair. It allowed the husband's plea and dissolved the marriage by granting him divorce under Hindu Marriage Act.

Found in TN: 3,500-yr-old 'pit houses' that protected people

Ragu.Raman@timesofindia.com

TOI

The site at Molapalayam, near Coimbatore, dates to the Neolithic period

Chennai: Archaeologists from Tamil University have unearthed rare "pit houses" dating to the Neolithic period at Molapalayam, near Coimbatore, in the foothills of the Western Ghats.

The agro-pastoral community that lived here 3,500 years ago could have used the pits in their houses to store grain or protect themselves from natural disasters, archaeologists said. Some pits had querns, or grinding stones, suggesting they could have been used as kitchens.

Excavators found skeletal remains of two infants, confirming that ancient people buried their dead near their habitation.

"Another Neolithic site in Paiyyampalli, in Tirupattur district, excavated in the 1960s, had similar pit houses," said archaeologist V Selvakumar from the department of maritime archaeology at Tamil University, Thanjavur.

The study of bone and plant remains suggests people from the Neolithic period reared cattle, sheep and goats, and cultivated millet and pulses. Artefacts such as shell pendants suggest they had contact with coastal communities. "The site has ancient grinding stones in good numbers, which could have been used for grinding grains and seeds. An earthen lamp and assemblage of pots found at the site show they were skilled in pottery," said Selvakumar.

The site produced burnished ceramics and varieties such as burnished red ware, black ware and black-and-red ware, and coarse red ware. Archaeologists also found stone tools such as hand axes, hammer stones, arrowheads, microliths and bone tools. Researchers said the ancient people could have lived here during the high rainfall season from June to Dec and shifted to the area near the Siruvani river in the drier months of Jan to May.

Archaeobotanists identified plant species by collecting charred remains of seeds and examining taxonomic characteristics. Analysis of bone remains revealed the presence of animals, including cattle, buffalo, goats, sheep, pigs and dogs. Remains of wild animals such as nilgai, blackbuck, gazelle, chital, leopard and wildcat were also found. Cut marks on bones suggested they hunted deer for meat.

Land Ports Authority of India, MHA
(Appointment of Member (Planning & Development) on deputation basis)

LPAI had issued a vacancy circular dated 2nd March, 2026 for filling up the post of Member (Planning &Development) with the last date of submission of applications being 13-04-2026. Now the last date is being extended up to 23-05-2026. For more details, **please visit the website of Ministry of Home Affairs at http://mha.gov.in and LPAI** at **http://lpai.gov.in.**

CBC 19142/11/0001/2627

STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND
Government of Jharkhand

e-procurement Notice inviting RFP (6th Call)
for
Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC)

Ref No: SHAJ/Tech/CW/Angarha-Rahe Road/2024/321 **Date: 30.04.2026**

1. State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi invites Request for Proposal for Engineering Procurement & Construction basis from eligible bidders for **Construction of H.L. bridge over Gunga nala in 5th km of Angarha-Hahe-Rahe road including ROB**. The approximate cost of the work is Rs. **82.73** Crore.
2. The interested bidders who have experience in execution of similar works and required technical & financial strength may obtain Request for Proposal (RFP) document for Engineering, Procurement & Construction document from e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in from **12.05.2026 (03:30 P.M.) to 02.06.2026 (upto 12:30 P.M.).** The complete RFP Application shall be submitted online by **02.06.2026 (upto 12:30 PM)** on e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in All the details regarding this RFP will be available on the above mentioned website. It will opened on **03.06.2026 (at 03:00 PM).**
3. The contractors are required to submit non-refundable **Tender Fee** of Rs. 50,000/- (Rs. Fifty thousand only) & **Bid Security (EMD)** of Rs. 0.83 crore (Rs. Eighty Three Lakhs) only. Tender fees and Earnest money Deposit(EMD) shall be deposited online as per Information technology & E-Governance Department order no 120 dated 03.10.2023.
4. ***No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.*** **The cost of the work and Bid Security (EMD) may change.**

Sd/-
Member (Technical)
State Highways Authority of Jharkhand
Deen Dayal Nagar
(Near Office of Executive Engineer, NH Division, Ranchi)
Booty Road, Ranchi-834008. Ph.: 0651-2361306,
E-mail: membertechnical.shaj3@gmail.com

PR 378856 State Highway Authority of Jharkhand(26-27).D

DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
INDIRA GANDHI DELHI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN
NETAJI SUBHAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
(www.cmacadmissions.com)

Admission Announcement for MBA Program (2026-28)
Common Management Admission Committee 2026

Online applications are invited for the admission in two-year full-time **MBA Program** (2026-28 Batch) of the following Departments of Universities established by Govt. of NCT of Delhi

- **Delhi School of Management (DTU)**
- **Department of Management (IGDTUW) (Only Female Candidates)**
- **Department of Management Studies (NSUT)**

Eligibility Criteria: Candidates who have completed Bachelor's degree with 60% marks in aggregate from a recognized University/institution and have a valid CAT-2025 or MAT-2025/26 score are eligible to apply. Please refer to the brochure of respective Universities regarding relaxation in eligibility criteria applicable to different categories/sub-categories. Those who are appearing in the final semester examination may also apply, provided that they submit the proof of eligibility by a specific date to be declared by the CMAC.

Important Dates

Opening Date of registration	**17th April, 2026 (Friday)**
Last date of filling online application form	**17th May, 2026 (Sunday)**

Visit **http://www.cmacadmissions.com** for a detailed information brochure and online application form. For University specific information, please visit **www.dtu.ac.in**, **www.igdtuw.ac.in**, **www.nsut.ac.in**.

Sd/-
Chairperson
CMAC (PG)- 2026

For any other query, please contact: Chairperson, CMAC (PG)- 2026
Delhi Technological University (Formerly Delhi College of Engineering), Bawana Road, Delhi -110042
Email- mbaadmissions@dtu.ac.in Contact :011-27296203

Centre notifies FDI changes on China funds for firms

100% Investment Allowed In Insurance Biz

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt has notified two crucial changes to foreign direct investment rules – the first relating to flows from neighbouring countries such as China and the second allowing up to 100% investment in insurance business – as it seeks to step up inflows amid a weak rupee.

Starting May 1, companies with up to 10% Chinese holding can invest through the automatic route. This amends a six-year policy that mandated govt approval for all FDI from countries that share land borders with India.

The amendments came amid concerns expressed by global investors, particularly private equity firms, which cited it as a major stumbling block for investing in Indian companies, prompting Union cabinet to allow companies without "significant beneficial ownership" to be permitted under the automatic route. In line with PMLA, the cap on significant beneficial ownership has been kept at 10%. However, the relaxed FDI rules will not apply to entities registered in China, Hong Kong or other countries sharing land borders with India.

The notification also said that a multilateral bank or fund, of which India is a member, such as ADB, NDB and AIIB, will not be treated as the entity of a particular country, nor shall any country be treated as the beneficial owner of investments of such bank or fund in India. Through another notification, govt allowed 100% FDI in insurance companies and intermediaries, such as brokers, third-party administrators or corporate agents, while limiting investment through the automatic route at 20% in the case of LIC.

30-yr-old judge found dead at Delhi home

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 30-year-old judge allegedly died by suicide at his residence in south Delhi's Green Park on Saturday. Police have initiated inquest proceedings to probe the case. The deceased, Aman Sharma, was secretary of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), North East District, at Karkardooma courts.

Police said Sharma's relative contacted police around 1.45pm to report that the judge had locked himself in the bathroom. Emergency responders rushed to the scene and broke open the bathroom windowpane. Sharma was found unresponsive and moved to Safdarjung Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Police are interviewing family members and awaiting the postmortem report.

Sharma completed his BA LLB from Symbiosis Law School, Pune, in 2018, and joined the Delhi Judicial Services on June 19, 2021. He has handled various criminal and civil matters while serving as judicial magistrate first class and civil judge. On Oct 18, he took charge as full-time secretary at DLSA, Karkardooma Courts. DLSA members did not comment. V K Singh, president of the Shahdara Bar Association, said Sharma was soft-spoken and an introvert.

Laddu adulteration: Panel report recommends action against erring officials

Vijayawada: The one-man committee appointed by the Andhra Pradesh govt to probe the alleged supply of adulterated ghee to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has submitted its report, reports **Srikanth Aluri**. Pointing out serious lapses by senior TTD officers in procurement of cow ghee used for the preparation of laddu prasadam, the report has recommended disciplinary and administrative action against several officers . Responsibility has been fixed on former TTD executive officers, senior finance and procurement officials, and designated ghee and dairy experts for failing to enforce mandatory FSSAI norms, suppressing or delaying action on laboratory findings, and allowing continued supply by defaulting dairies.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
CITY CORPORATION RAICHUR
Website -www.raichurcity.gov.in E-mail itstaff_ulb_raichura@yahoo.com
Phone No 08532-226768 Fax No 08532-226316

No. CCR/ENG/TS/CF/511/2025-26 Date :30/04/2026

Tender Notification (Under KPPP 2.0 Procedure)

It is hereby informed that tender notifications are invited under the following grants for the works shown below through KPPP 2.0 procedure. Eligible contractors interested in participating in the tender may submit bids through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Further details are also available on the official website of Raichur City Corporation (http://www.raichurcity.mrc.gov.in).

Sl. No	Grant Details	Name of Work	Indent Number
I	UIDF Grant	Local Area Plan for De Congestion of Urkund Eranna Slum and Shifting of Slaughterhouse from the Slum Area in Raichur City Corporation Raichur. **Estimate Cost Rs. 924.48 Lakhs.**	DMA/2026-27/ BD/ WORK_ INDENT56974

DIP/RCR/52KSMCA/54/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer, City Corporation Raichur.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-11/324/2026-27 Date: 02.05.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the the following works mentioned below:

Name of the Works : 1) Formation of asphalt road including construction of RCC Side drains, Deck slab and water supply pipeline at Road No. 1, 2 & 11 at Sub layout-8, Koorgalli Industrial Area, Mysuru Taluk, Mysuru District. **2)** Formation of Industrial Layout including construction of Roads, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, Retaining wall & HDPE Dual Water supply pipeline in Sector-1 for Sub Layout in KGF Industrial Area, Bangaradagani Village, KGF Taluk, Kolar District. **3)** Formation of Industrial Layout including construction of Roads, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, Retaining Wall & HDPE Dual Water Supply pipe line in Sector-2 for Sub layout in KGF Industrial Area, Bangaradagani Village, KGF Taluk, Kolar District. **4)** Formation of Industrial Layout including Construction of Roads, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage works, Retaining wall & HDPE Dual Water supply pipe line in Sector-3 for sub layout in KGF Industrial Area, Bangaradagani Village, KGF Taluk, Kolar District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **18.05.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/475/Zen/2026-27

कार्यालयः नगर निगम, गोरखपुर

ई-निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम, गोरखपुर द्वारा नगर निगम के समस्त पंजीकृत/पात्र ठेकेदारों/अनुभवी फर्मों से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से मुख्यमंत्री ग्रीन रोड इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेन्ट स्कीम (अर्बन) के अन्तर्गत 03 कार्य की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। शासनादेश सं0 3890/नौ-5-149सा/2019, नगर विकास अनुभाग-05 उ0प्र0 शासन लखनऊ, दिनांक 20 सितम्बर 20.09.2019 के क्रम में उक्त निविदा में नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में अपंजीकृत ठेकेदारों भी प्रतिभाग कर सकते है। सर्वप्रथम निविदादाता होने पर सम्बन्धित ठेकेदार को नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में पंजीकरण की अर्हता पूर्ण कराकर नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में पंजीकरण कराना होगा। पंजीकरण की अर्हता सम्बन्धी विवरण/आवश्यक प्रपत्र की सूचना किसी भी कार्य दिवस में नगर निगम कार्यालय के निर्माण विभाग में देखी जा सकती है। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र उ0प्र0 की ई-प्रक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाईट **http://etender.up.nic.in** पर देखी जा सकती है। शासनादेश सं0 4848/नौ-5-2018-470सा/2018 नगर विकास अनुभाग-5 उ0प्र0 शासन, लखनऊ दिनांक 10 दिसम्बर, 2018 के क्रम में निविदा शुल्क + जी0एस0टी0 एवं धरोहर धनराशि पृथक-पृथक NEFT अथवा RTGS के माध्यम से नगर निगम कोष में नगर निगम, गोरखपुर के खाता सं0 10174963707 (IFSC Code; IDFB0021561) IDFC First Bank, शाखा-पार्क रोड, गोरखपुर अथवा वेबसाईट **http://etender.up.nic.in** पर ही ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से जमा की जायेगी। ई-निविदाएं निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र. सं.	नगर निगम	पैकेज सं.	अन्तर्निहित मार्ग	मार्ग की लम्बाई मी0 में	अनुमानित लागत जीएसटी रहित (रू0 लाख में) निर्माण	5 सालो का अनुरक्षण	कार्य की सम्पूर्ण अनुमानित लागत (रू0 लाख में)	निर्माण धरोहर धनराशि (लाख रू0 में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य जी.एस.टी. सहित (रू0)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	गोरखपुर	Gkp/CMG 24-25/Pkg-1	कचहरी चौराहा से काली मंदिर तक।	842	753.00	17.00	770.00	15.40	12	23600.00
2		Gkp/CMG 24-25/Pkg-2	शिवाय होटल से गणेश चौराहा होते हुये अग्रसेन तिराहा विजय चौक तक।	1250	1209.00	27.00	1236.00	24.72	12	23600.00
3		Gkp/CMG 24-25/Pkg-3	शास्त्री चौक से छात्रसंघ, अम्बेडकर चौक से ऐश्रा तिराहा, हरिओम नगर से टाउनहाल तक।	2370	2080.00	47.00	2127.00	42.54	15	35400.00

ऑनलाईन निविदा का विवरण

क्र. सं.	विवरण	दिनांक एवं समय
1	वेबसाईट से निविदा डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	04.05.2026
2	प्री-बिड मिटिंग	----
3	निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि	09.05.2026 @ 05:00 PM
4	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	10.05.2026 @ 11:00 AM

कार्यों का विवरण, नियम व शर्तें नगर निगम, गोरखपुर के वेबसाइट **https://gorakhpurnagarnigam.up.gov.in/** गोरखपुर पर व ई-प्रक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाईट **http://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है साथ ही नगर निगम कार्यालय के नोटिस बोर्ड पर चस्पा कर दी गयी है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिये उक्त वेबसाईट पर देखी जा सकती है।

पत्रांकः 66/मु0अभि0/चार-सा0नि0वि0/2026-27 दिनांकः 02.05.2026

मुख्य अभियन्ता
नगर निगम, गोरखपुर

Nālandā UNIVERSITY
Rajgir, Dist. – Nalanda, Bihar-803116

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NIT No.: NU/Engg(Civil)/2026-27/01

Nalanda University, an Avant-garde International University under the ageis of Ministry of External Affairs, invites online e-Tenders for "**CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT WORKS OF 38 STUDENT HOSTEL BUILDINGS AT NALANDA UNIVERSITY, RAJGIR, BIHAR.**"

The detailed NIT can be downloaded from theNalanda University's official website: www.nalandauniv.edu.in, https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app and https://nalandauniv.euniwizarde.com.

Last date of bid submission: 03:00 PM 23.05.2026
Pre-bid meeting: 12.05.2026 at 11:30 PM onward.

Sd/-
Registrar

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय प्रमुख चिकित्सा अधिकारी एवं सदस्य सचिव,
मेडिकेयर रिलीफ सोसायटी राजकीय जयपुरिया चिकित्सालय, जयपुर

क्रमांकः-Manpower/2026/905 दिनांकः 30.04.2026

Notice Invited Bid (2026-27)

Bids for rate contract for **Hiring of Various Manpower Services** at Govt RDBP jaipuria hospital Jaipur are invited from interested bidders up to 5:00 Am/Pm Date 21/5/26. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state.

UBN:- MHS2627SLRC00583 **Sd/- PMO & MS**
Est Cost 360.00 lacs **Govt RDBP Jaipuria Hospital**
DIPR/C/7737/2026 **Jaipur**

JUNNAR MUNCIPAL COUNCIL, JUNNAR,
TAL.JUNNAR, DIST. PUNE

e-Tender Notice No.01 for 2026-27

Junnar Municipal Council, Junnar, Tal. Junnar, Dist. Pune invites e-Tender for the work of provision of drinking water, rejuvination and beutification of Padmavati lake, Junnar, Tal. Junnar, Dist. Pune in the State of Maharashtra, valued at Rs. 6,44,80,397/- Please visit website **www.mahatenders.gov.in** for detailed information.

Date: 29/04/2026 **Chief Officer** **President**
Junnar Municipal Council, Junnar

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता,
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, क्षेत्र-प्रथम-जोधपुर
Tele- 0291-2651750 E-Mail : rj_acejo@nic.in

क्रमांक-अमुअ/क्षेत्र-प्रथम/जो./2026-27 /862-73 दिनांकः- 29.04.2026

बिड संशोधन सूचना संख्या 2, NIB 20/2025-26

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी की गई निविदा संख्या 20/ 2025-26 मे निविदा तिथियो में संशोधन करते हुए बिड संशोधन जारी किया जा कर https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर अपलोड किया गया है।

NIT No. 20/2025-26 (UBIN-PHE2526WLOB15970, E-proc ID- 2026_PHCJO_549181_1)

Sd/-
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
DIPR/C/7689/2026 जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, क्षेत्र-प्रथम-जोधपुर

INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
C V Raman Avenue, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru-560 080

TENDER NOTICE

Tender No.: 03/IASc/Editorial/ES/IASc/2026-27 Date: 28 April 2026

The Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru, Invites sealed bids in two bid format for Empanelment of Agencies for Proofreading and Copy-Editing Services of Scientific Journals.

Full details about issue of bid is available in the Academy website https://ww.ias.ac.in/About_IAsc/Tender_notices/

Last date for receipt of bids: 14/05/2026 (12.00 Noon)

Place : Bengaluru Date : 29-04-2026 **Executive Secretary**

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय-निदेशक, पुरातत्व एवं संग्रहालय विभाग, राजस्थान, जयपुर।
अल्बर्टहाल परिसर, रामनिवास बाग, जयपुर
दूरभाष सं. 0141-2820360 (ईमेल- dirarchraj@gmail.com)

क्रमांकः पु.सं./अ.अ./2026/9406 दिनांकः 28.04.2026

:: ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या-17/2025-26 अन्तर्गत संशोधन ::

पुरातत्व एवं संग्रहालय विभाग के पत्र क्रमांकः निविदा सूचना संख्या-17/ 2025-26 (पु.सं./अ.अ./2026/3476 दिनांकः 13.02.2026) जारी की गई है, इस निविदा सूचना अन्तर्गत ई-निविदाएं प्राप्त करने एवं खोलने की तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता हैं-

NIB No.	UBN No.
AMD2026A0100	AMD2026WLOB00119

विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित तिथि एवं समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने एवं ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रपत्र प्रस्तुत करने की अन्तिम दिनांक एवं समय	दिनांक 30.04.2026 मध्यान्ह: 02:00 बजे तक	दिनांक 18.05.2026 मध्यान्ह: 02:00 बजे तक
निविदाऐं खोलने की दिनांक एवं समय	दिनांक 30.04.2026 मध्यान्ह: 03:00 बजे	दिनांक 18.05.2026 मध्यान्ह: 03:00 बजे

DIPR/C/7747/2026 (डॉ. पंकज धरेन्द्र) निदेशक

KARNATAKA STATE BEVERAGES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
4th Floor, TTMC Building "A" Block, BMTC Building, K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560 027. Ph: 080-22483636/38/39

No:HR-14014/2021/Human Resources/KSBCL/6140 Date:30-04-2026

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Limited (KSBCL) inviting e-tender through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement act 1999 and rules 2000 in two cover system. For more details visit **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or **www.ksbcl.com**

Name of Service: Providing ESCORT SECURITY GUARDS (Security guards to escort IML Spirits)

The Schedule of event is as follows.

(1) Pre bid meeting date: **05.05.2026-11:30 am.**
(2) Last date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications:**14.05.2026-4:30 pm.**
(3) Last date and time for Receipt of Tenders:**16.05.2026-4:30 pm.**
(4) Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid:**18.05.2026-10:30 pm.**
(5) Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **20.05.2026-10:30 pm.**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager (HR & Admin)

DIPR/CP/469/CCL/2026-27

Deputy Commissioner Office, Kolar District, Kolar
(District urban Development cell, Kolar)
E-mail: ka.kolar.dudc@gmail.com, phone & Fax no: 08152-243555

No.DUDC/TECH/CR/34/2026-27 DATED: 27.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(as per the conditions of the Standard Tender Document E-Procurement Tender Notification)

Kolar District ULB's Tender through Karnataka Procurement Portal as per the GO. No.FD/06/PCL/2006, Bangalore from the Registered, Eligible Contractors. For details visit **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The Indent Numbers details below. Any addendums will be notified through Karnataka Procurement portal only. **Work Indent No:DMA/2026-27/ IND6208,** Manufacturing, Supplying and Fixing of Dr. BR Ambedkar statue (Approximtely 3500 Kgs) 21 Feet 9 Inches Height x 7 Feet 6 inches width x6 feet side In Deputy Commissioner Office Kolar. **Amount put to tender Rs:98.00 lakhs.** Tender last date and Bid Opening date should be seen in KPPP Portal Website.

Sd/- Project Director
District Urban Development Cell, Kolar

DIPR/KOLAR/R.O.No.51/KSMC&A/2026-27

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
3rd Floor, BMTC Complex, Kengal Hanumanthaiah Road, Shanthinagara, Bengaluru-560 027. **Ph:** 080-22969274 **e-Mail:** pdretail@bmrc.co.in
KPPP Ref. No.: BMRCL/2025-26/SE0042 Date: 31.03.2026

TENDER EXTENSION NOTIFICATION

Sub: Grant of License for Development and Operation of a Large-Format CBD Destination Commercial & Experience Centre at MG Road Metro Station

Description	
Bid submission through e-procurement portal (online)	**On or before 17:00 hours on dt: 20.05.2026**
Date & Time of the opening of Bids (online)	**21.05.2026 after 17:30 Hours**

Note: Prospective Tenderers are informed to refer the RFP, BMRCL's response to pre-bid queries and the Corrigendum issued to RFP and submit their bids through KPP Portal before the due date/time.

Date: 02.05.2026 **Sd/- Director, Finance**

Office of the Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Special division, Shimoga
Ph: 08182-222943, E-Mail: spdivision@gmail.com

IFT NO: 11/2026-27 Date:30-04-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-4 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 and above register contractor can apply under head of account 5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improve ments work of One time development of the road from main road of Abbalagere village via Abbalagere to join Belalakatte village canal in Shivamogga Taluk (Indent No- 35899) for Amount put to tender is Rs.142.86 Lakhs and EMD amount is Rs.2.145 Lakhs. Time allowed for completion of work is 09 Months including Monsoon. The tenderers may submit tenders through KPP-portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz., http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP-Portal from 30-04-2026 to 08-05-2026 Last date for Receipt of Tender is on 08-05-2026 at 17.00 PM. The Technical bid will be opened on 09-05-2026 at 05.30 PM onwards and Financial bid will be opened after 10-05-2026 Onwards. If there any changes in publicati on, it will be puplishing through KPP-Portal only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Special Division, Shimoga.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/159/04/157

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Yelahanka Division, Bengaluru–560064

No.: BNCC/EE/YNK/KPPP/03/2026-27 Date: 02.05.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System)
(Short Term - Tender Notification)
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, BNCC invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table below. **(Standard Tender Document KW-04)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Comprehensive development of roads, drains, footpaths, parks, sports facilities and educational buildings in Yelahanka Division. **Amount put to tender in Lakhs: 3,526.88, EMD in Rs.: 35,26,886.00.**
2	Providing decorative poles, lights AB cables and switches to the main roads and ornamental poles and post top lantern / lights in Ward No. 03 & 04. **Amount put to tender in Lakhs: 241.45, EMD in Rs.: 3,62,175.00.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. (2)** Date of Pre-Bid Meeting: **11.05.2026** at **3:00 p.m. (3)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **30.05.2026** and the opening of tenders will be as per the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal guidelines. **(4)** Date & time of Opening of Technical Bid: **01.06.2026** after **4:00 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, Bengaluru North City Corporation

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QCI's BOARDS AND DIVISIONS
PADD PPID NDIE ONDC

The Quality Council of India (QCI) is a premier autonomous body set up by Government of India. QCI is responsible for creating a Quality Mindset and envisions to ensure quality across products and services that touch every citizen. As an independent and autonomous body, QCI creates a mechanism for independent third-party assessments of products, services, and processes, coordinating its activities through its constituent boards and divisions. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, serves as the nodal point for QCI.

QCI hereby invites proposals for "**Engagement of an implementation agency for Setting Up Chemical & Microbiology section of Food Testing Laboratory on turn-key basis**"

The Request for Proposal (RFP) documents along with detailed set of requirements may be found on QCI's website: **www.qcin.org** under the tenders' section **(https://qcin.org/work-with-us/#tenders).**

Interested parties may submit their bids as per the submission guidelines in the RFP document.

Quality Council of India, World Trade Center, J-200, Block J, Naroji Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi- 110029

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

No: EE/ KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra/ 2nd Call Tender Notification No: 01/2026-27: Dtd: 29.04.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - Call 2
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

Ref No: EE/ KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra/ Tender Notification No: 01/2026-27: Dtd: 04.04.2026

Percentage Tenders by e-procurement portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account 4701 Bhadra. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is Rs.97.40 Lakhs. The amount of EMD is Rs.1,95,000/- (by kpp portal) contactors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from 30.04.2026 to 11.05.2026 upto 17.30 hours in the website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Technical Bid will be opened on 12.05.2026 at 17.30 hours and Financial Bid will be opened on after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority. Pre-Bid Meeting on Dtd: 05.05.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs at O/o Executive Engineer, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 08 Months (Including monsoon).

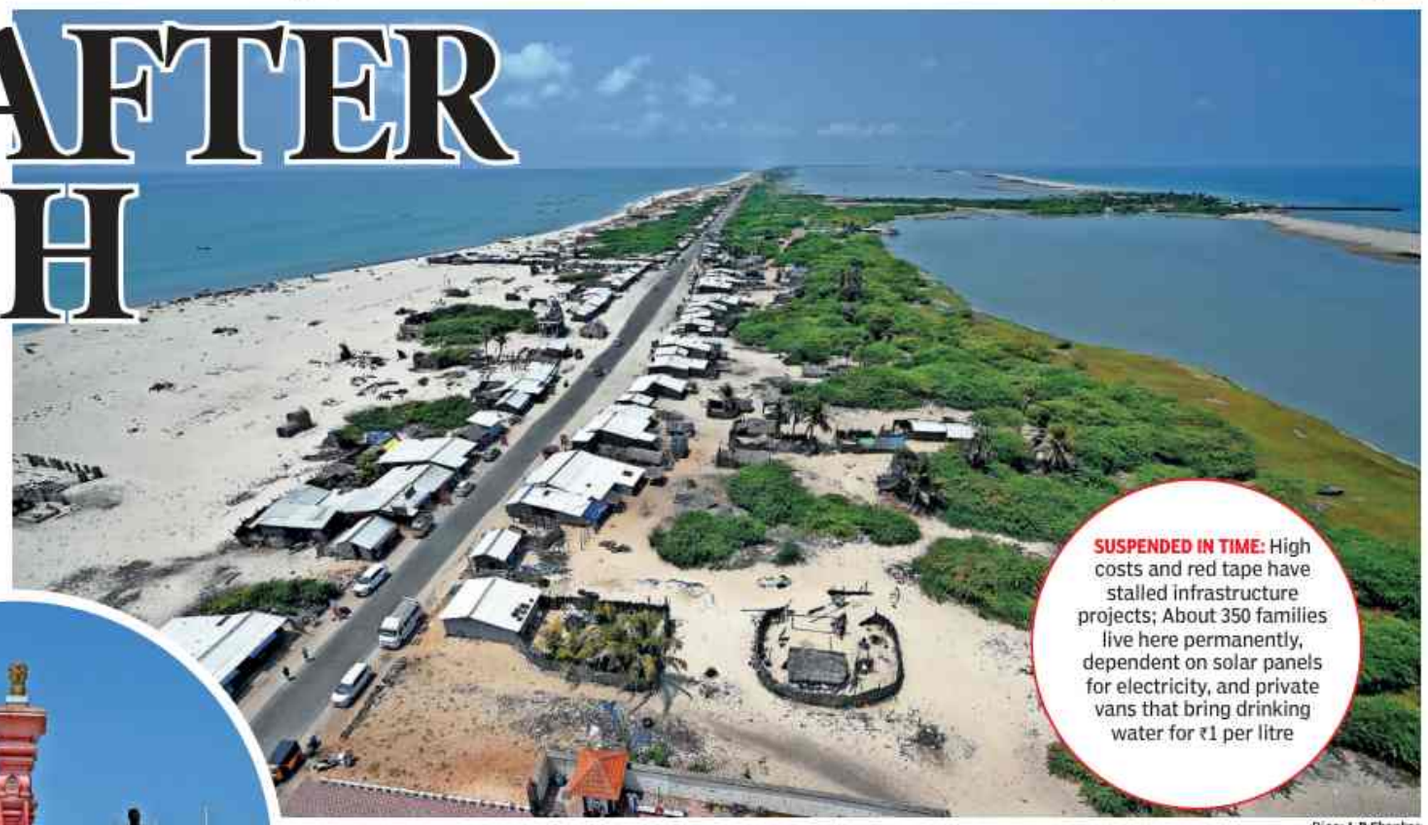
For more conditions and details visit website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/138/04/167

In Dec 1964, a cyclone wiped Dhanushkodi off the map. The town at the tip of Rameswaram island is slowly finding its way back through tourism and a new bridge, but basic amenities such as water and electricity are still lacking

LIFE AFTER DEATH



SUSPENDED IN TIME: High costs and red tape have stalled infrastructure projects; About 350 families live here permanently, dependent on solar panels for electricity, and private vans that bring drinking water for ₹1 per litre

Pics: L R Shankar

Jaya Menon & L R Shankar

As the sun rises and the horizon melts into the sea, Dhanushkodi stirs to life. Hawkers begin to line the narrow road flanked by the sea, fishermen return to the shores with their catch, tourists and pilgrims arrive in steady streams. For decades, Dhanushkodi's story was one of neglect and abandonment. That began to change after 2017, when the road link brought in tourists. What was once a thriving town has since taken on an eerie, fragile beauty. Today, 200 families have returned, carving out a life amid the ruins. With no electricity, drinking water, or mobile connectivity, survival here is basic and precarious.

Perched at the tip of Rameswaram island in south Tamil Nadu, Dhanushkodi sits dramatically at the confluence of Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean. But the ghost town remains suspended in time, its long-promised makeover elusive.

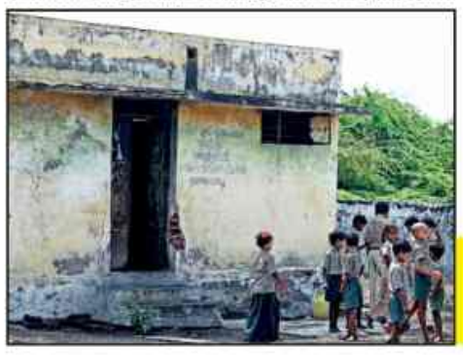
Connectivity has improved in recent years. A new bridge alongside the 112-year-old Pamban bridge was inaugurated a year ago, and a 9.5km road linking Rameswaram to Arichalmunai, laid in 2017, opened the area to visitors. But the town remains largely uninhabitable, a stark reminder of the devastating cyclone of Dec 1964 that wiped it off the map.

Development has been slow, constrained by environmental concerns. The region falls within an ecologically sensitive zone and is now part of the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. The declaration of a greater flamingo sanctuary last year has tightened restrictions. High costs and regulatory hurdles have stalled infrastructure projects, while eco-tourism initiatives have taken precedence.

Even as the town draws crowds, its residents live on the margins. About 3,000 families cling to Dhanushkodi's remnants, though only 350 live here permanently, dependent on solar panels that provide limited electricity, and private vans that bring drinking water for ₹1 per litre. The lone panchayat union middle school stands in a state of disrepair, its rusting iron beams and zinc-sheet walls forcing students to study outdoors under trees.

The town with toddlers and elderly has no medical facilities. In 2024, state public health experts flagged the absence of primary health care, sanitation, and emergency services in the disaster-prone coastline in the Tamil Nadu Journal of Public Health and Medical Research. They said any redevelopment blueprint must first secure housing, safe water and a health outpost for residents, before chasing large tourism projects in this fragile border town.

A few nautical miles away lies Talaimannar in Sri Lanka's northern province. Arichalmunai has long been a point of clandestine crossings, once used by illegal ferries transporting Sri Lankan Tamil refugees. While such activity has reduced with increased vigilance, it has not ceased.



NO SPACE TO LEARN: Students of the lone panchayat union middle school that stands in a state of disrepair, forcing them to study outdoors

For many, survival depends on the sea. K Kanges travels daily from Rameswaram to fish. Having witnessed the spillover effects of the Sri Lankan civil war, the 45-year-old is part of an informal vigilance group. "We alert authorities if we see anything suspicious," says Kanges. He recalls stories of Dhanushkodi as a once-thriving hub, "like a Singapore". Fishing is the backbone of the local economy. About 125 families run makeshift stalls selling trinkets and seafood meals under thatched roofs, catering to the growing tourist footfall.

Nature, meanwhile, reclaims its space. Peafowl roam freely, their calls breaking the stillness. Residents feed them biscuits, a telling image of adaptation in a place caught between ruin and resilience.

Successive govts are yet to unfold a clear plan to the town. After the 1964 cyclone horror in which 2,000 people were believed to have died, and a train with passengers was swept away into the sea, the town continues to wait – to be rebuilt.

Email your feedback with name and address to southpole.toi@timesofindia.com

Sharp rise in severe behavioural issues: Mental health experts

▶ Continued from page 1

Security personnel, typically associated with celebrity protection and crowd control, are now being hired by families dealing with teenagers whose addictions have triggered anger, violence and risky behaviour.

In Surat, a family brought in a bouncer after their 17-year-old son began beating the family's pet Labrador to vent his anger at his father, who often scolded him over excessive gaming. Nikhil Pandey, head of bouncers at Force11 Security Company, said eight bouncers were deployed in two shifts for nine months to protect the dog.

Yasin Malik, who runs a security agency in the city, said guarding teenagers struggling with addiction has emerged as a new category of demand. In one recent case, his agency was hired by the family of a real estate developer after their son underwent rehabilitation for chemical drug use. The bouncers were tasked with ensuring the teenager was never left alone long enough to access substances again.

"For an eight-hour shift, families pay Rs 1,500 per bouncer per day," Malik said. He added that agencies are now training staff to remain discreet and handle children with care.

Mental health experts say such cases reflect a sharp rise in severe behavioural problems linked to addiction, especially after the Covid pandemic.

In hosps, alarms cut through consultations

▶ Continued from page 1

In hospitals and clinics, alarms cut through consultations, leaving patients shaken.

"I switched off my phone immediately thinking it was some bug," said a Bandra resident. A visitor in Borivali recalled people freezing. "It was annoying to some and scary to others."

Across states, similar scenes played out. In Bhubaneswar, many feared hacking or a cyberattack before reading further. "I thought my phone was under attack, then felt relieved," said a resident. In Bengaluru, users mistook it for a heatwave or earthquake warning before clarity emerged. In Lucknow, a pharmacist said several devices blared simultaneously, causing brief panic.

In New Delhi, Kanika Sharma, 29, a private school teacher, said the sudden buzz during brunch initially triggered fears of global tensions before she realised it was a drill. "Tensions in West Asia were the first thing that came to my mind… this system can be useful in case of emergencies," she said.

Others flagged confusion over repeat alerts. Abhishek Dogra, 33, an IT professional from Jasola in southeast Delhi, said his entire family's phones rang at once. "We were worried at first, then realised it was a test. It's a good move, but test messages should be clearly marked," he said. Authorities later confirmed it was a planned trial by National Disaster Management Authority and department of telecommunications.

(Inputs from New Delhi, Bengaluru, Lucknow, Patna, Bhubaneswar)

Balasubramaniam and Aniya named NITI Aayog members

Aniya 1st Nyishi Woman From Arunachal With PhD

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt Saturday named academics Joram Aniya and R Balasubramaniam as new members of NITI Aayog as part of a revamp of the thinktank.

PM Narendra Modi congratulated both the academics in a post on X. "Their rich experience and deep understanding of various issues will greatly strengthen policy making. I am confident their contributions will help drive innovation and growth across sectors. Wishing them a very productive and impactful tenure ahead," he added.

The addition of Aniya to NITI Aayog marks a significant step as it brings an eminent intellectual voice from Arunachal Pradesh. She is currently an associate professor and member of the Arunachal Pradesh Private Educational Regulatory Commission, and comes with rich experience in teaching, research, and public policy engagement, officials said.

R Balasubramaniam (left) and Joram Aniya

She is the first woman from the Nyishi community to earn a doctorate and the first in Hindi language in the state, with significant contributions to literature, culture, and indigenous knowledge systems, they added. She has authored and edited many books on Nyishi literature and culture, along with numerous research publications.

Balasubramaniam, who has taught at Cornell University, is a member for human resources at the Capacity Building Commission set up by govt.

A qualified physician, Balasubramaniam is the founder of the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement and the Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement. Balasubramaniam has a master's degree in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University.

Late last month, govt named former chief economic adviser Ashok Lahiri as the new vice chairman of NITI Aayog with IISER, Bhopal director Gobardhan Das, economist K V Raju, AIIMS director M Srinivas and science and technology secretary Abhay Karandikar named as new members. Rajiv Gauba will also continue as a full-time member.

Lahiri is expected to take over next week and with new members in place, the think tank is expected to provide critical inputs during the challenge posed by the conflict in West Asia.

Woman burnt alive by lover, his kin; dies at hosp with 90% burns

Rahul.Singh1@timesofindia.com

Meerut: A 21-year-old woman from UP, who was allegedly set on fire by her lover and his family over a relationship dispute on April 25, has succumbed to her 90% burn injuries after battling for life for a week at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, police said on Saturday.

According to police, Kashish Meena, a resident of Shikarpur, had been in a relationship with Ashish Meena, 24, a daily-wager, from the same village in Bulandshahr for three years. Both families were aware of it and had initially agreed to their marriage. But their relationship began to fall apart after Ashish informed her about his decision to get engaged elsewhere.

When Kashish confronted him, eyewitnesses said an argument ensued during which Ashish's family members allegedly poured petrol on her. She was taken to CHC Shikarpur and then to district hospital before being shifted to another medical centre due to her critical condition. She was admitted to Safdarjung Hospital where she died on Friday.

Feeling alone, exploited by friends? How to protect your self-worth

To help readers cope with their anxieties in these stressful times, TOI's ***Talk it Out*** *series brings expert counsellors to answer your mental health queries. This week's advice is from counselling psychologist* ***Sugandha Dewan***

I am a 2nd year college student from Hyderabad. For a few months now, I have been feeling alone and isolated despite being surrounded by many batchmates. Interaction with them feels hollow. Usually, all these people keep to each other and talk to me only when I initiate. But every time they need something, especially during exams, they become extra friendly with me. This makes me feel exploited, which is why I hesitate to talk to them nowadays. Their useless gibberish annoys me. I am unable to focus on important things because I keep thinking about these interactions. I have tried to find someone with whom I would resonate, someone who would understand how I feel, but to no avail. How do I cope with my overthinking and improve my social interactions? Please help

— Anonymous

Image: AI

What you're describing reflects a deeper sense of not belonging. This can be difficult to sit with. When people reach out mostly in times of need, it can naturally make you feel used, leading to irritation and withdrawal. I also notice that you're aware of your priorities, but these interactions are taking up mental space and affecting your focus. It might help to reflect on what these experiences have left you feeling, and how they may be spilling over into other areas of your life. It's important to remember that these interactions are not a reflection of your worth. It's natural that your trust in people feels affected, and rebuilding it can take time. You can begin setting small, quiet boundaries, choosing how much to engage, especially with those who approach you only when they need something. To build connections, try engaging in spaces like clubs or shared activities. The goal is interaction, not immediate deep friendships. Meaningful connections take time. Till then, focus on protecting your energy while staying open.

My son has scored 60% marks during his pre-boards, but his school in Delhi is refusing his desired PCM (Physics-Chemistry-Maths) stream. Has CBSE put norms that only those with 75% marks are eligible for PCM? This should not be the rule for schools. Educational institutions say every child is unique. We can't say when his turning point comes. What should we do?

— Anonymous

As parents, you want your child to have opportunities and not feel limited by current performance. However, schools often set internal cut-offs for streams like PCM based on academic demands and past performance. These are school-level decisions rather than strict mandates, and are often meant to ensure that students are able to cope with the PCM rigour. What may help here is shifting the focus from only *eligibility* to *readiness*. A score of 60% does not define your child's potential, but it can be a signal to assess his current comfort and foundation in subjects. You could set up some time with his teachers to understand their concerns, and explore if there is any flexibility, a trial period, or additional academic support that can help him bridge gaps. It's equally important to involve your son in this discussion, understanding his interest, motivation, and willingness to put in the effort required for PCM. Sometimes, alternative paths can also lead to fulfilling careers. The goal is not just access to a stream, but ensuring your child feels capable, supported, and confident in the path he chooses.

I'm a BCA student and AI enthusiast from Ajmer. My family is going through a financial crisis, and I want to do something to increase our income. I tried doing a job since I study in an open university. But my father wants my sole focus to be on studies because his own life experiences have taught him that life can get stuck if one starts working at an age when they should be studying. I'm putting my best efforts into study, but this perpetual lack of money depresses me. Sometimes, I don't have enough money to buy even small things or visit places. What should I do?

— Anonymous

Being aware of your family's financial struggles while also wanting to contribute can create pressure and helplessness. I can also see that both you and your father value building a secure future. Financial stability is important, and your father's concern seems to come from his belief that focusing on studies now will create better long-term security. In many cases, completing your education without major distractions can open more stable opportunities later. Starting to earn early can sometimes pull you toward immediate financial needs, making it harder to stay consistent with studies. At the same time, your present discomfort matters. You could have a calm conversation with him about exploring freelance or project-based work, especially aligned with your interest in AI, that won't interfere with your studies. Alongside this, focus on setting daily study goals, building projects, or strengthening skills. These can give you a sense of progress. This phase may feel restrictive, but it's temporary. What you build now can support a more secure future.

TalkitOut

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Kotak eyes Deutsche Bank's retail assets

Mumbai: Kotak Mahindra Bank Saturday confirmed that it is looking at Deutsche Bank's retail business, which is on the block, while stating that it has dropped out of IDBI Bank acquisition race because of the valuation and it would be 'difficult to swallow'.

Ashok Vaswani, MD & CEO said the bank would pursue deals only if they met three filters — strategic fit, financial viability and manageable execution without straining management bandwidth — and would apply the same criteria to evaluate Deutsche Bank's assets.

On IDBI, Vaswani said Kotak had looked at the bank from every single position from a valuation perspective. "Of course, it has some kind of scale but it wasn't really a must for us to do. Obviously, it would have been a difficult thing to swallow," he said. TNN

Centre appoints Rohit Jain as RBI deputy governor

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Govt has appointed Rohit Jain as deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, filling a vacancy following the retirement of T Rabi Sankar on May 3 and completing the four-member deputy governor panel.

The RBI has four deputy governors. With Jain's appointment, the current line-up includes M Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar's successor Jain, Swaminathan J, Poonam Gupta and M D Patra's successor line having evolved over recent appointments. The three continuing deputy governors — Swaminathan, Gupta and M Rajeshwar Rao — handle key portfolios spanning supervision, regulation, financial markets, monetary policy support, and internal administration.

Swaminathan oversees supervision of banks and non-banking financial companies, including regulatory and enforcement functions. Poonam Gupta handles monetary policy department support functions, economic and policy research, and international relations. Rao looks after regulation, risk monitoring and financial stability functions, alongside certain administrative departments.

Jain, who was appointed executive director at the RBI on December 11, 2020, brings over three decades of central banking experience across supervision, human resource management and banking operations. Prior to his elevation as ED, he served as chief general manager-in-charge of the Department of Supervision.

As executive director, he was responsible for the Department of Supervision, specifically risk, analytics and vulnerability assessment. His work involved overseeing supervisory frameworks, identifying systemic risks and strengthening data-driven monitoring of regulated entities.

Jain holds a master's degree in commerce and has an MBA degree as well. He has also earned professional qualifications including the International Certificate in Banking Risk and Regulation, Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Banking and Finance and Certified Bank Trainer.

Exit polls: We need more trust, less tamasha

BIG MOOD

RAHUL VERMA

Exit polls in India are often treated as an election-night tamasha. This is not the case in many developed democracies, where the science and art of studying elections is becoming more refined and rigorous with every cycle. When polls fail there, it becomes a national scandal. In the UK, following a series of high-profile failures, such as the 2017 general elections and the 2016 EU referendum, the House of Lords established a Select Committee on Political Polling in June 2017. The committee's final report in April 2018 called for tighter oversight of the polling industry.

If anything, India is moving in the opposite direction. Standards in the 1990s and 2000s were arguably much more robust. The tamasha has now reached such a low level in this round of assembly elections that any serious researcher of electoral politics would bow their head in shame. It is telling that even prominent voices in TV news have begun arguing that exit polls must exit if they do not disclose their methodology, warning against reducing them to a prime-time lottery with zero accountability. Election polling data is extremely crucial to understand the nature of Indian democracy for multiple reasons. In many conflict-ridden democracies, independent polling data acts as a credible device to check the robustness of the election process. In established democracies such as India, they help us in understanding the pulse of people regarding not just who they are voting for, but what is shaping their vote choice. The 2024 general election significantly undermined confidence in this enterprise. Not because pollsters got the numbers wrong — we have seen that before —but because there was no serious, scientific explanation of why they went wrong. No diagnosis. No attempt to improve the craft. An Aug 2016 issue of Seminar that I curated on the state of election surveys (available online) examined the challenges polling faces not just in India, but globally. The concerns of contributors remain relevant, but the institutional response in India has been strikingly absent.

Since then, the track record of even the best pollsters has not been modest to say the least. In this round, some of the more credible organisations were notably absent. Credibility in polling doesn't mean always getting predictions right, but rather providing a lot of details regarding how their surveys are conducted. Details about sample size, sampling design, geographical spread, representativeness, weighting, and mode of interviewing are essential to evaluate reliability. Without these, projected numbers are not data but mere speculation.

Exit polls, and even more so post-poll surveys, are important not merely to forecast winners, but to understand the social and political basis of electoral mandates. They provide granular insights into voting behaviour that actual results alone cannot. Conducting such surveys is expensive. Costs depend on sample size, interview length, geographic spread, and fieldwork effort. Yet, many exit polls today do not even disclose who funded them. In the past, most exit polls were commissioned by established media houses. In the last few years, a proliferation of little-known firms has produced a flood of forecasts with no transparency and no scrutiny. This raises a basic question: who is commissioning these surveys, and why?

FINGER ON PULSE: Polls can provide granular insights into voting behaviour that results alone cannot

More importantly, India's top TV networks are complicit in this decline. Instead of investing in credible, independent polling, many have outsourced their responsibility. If media organisations verify facts before publishing a story, why do they air exit poll numbers with no methodological disclosure? Why are viewers expected to trust surveys conducted by unknown entities? The mushrooming of polling firms with little track record has gone largely unquestioned. Is it not the responsibility of the media to ensure transparency? Should they not invest in building credible polling infrastructure? And why is polling confined only to elections? In many democracies, regular surveys track public opinion on key issues, offering a continuous understanding of citizen sentiment. In India, the absence of such investment has reduced polling to an episodic spectacle.

Then there are the 'poll of polls'. In statistics, averaging improves accuracy only when errors are random and independent. In political polling, they are often neither. When a high-quality survey is averaged with a poorly designed one, the result is not balance, but distortion. Bad data does not cancel out; it contaminates. Moreover, aggregation encourages 'herding'. Pollsters, wary of being outliers, adjust their estimates to align with prevailing trends. What emerges is a false consensus —not because multiple surveys independently converge on the projected estimate, but because they converge on each other.

Opinion polls and exit polls are vital tools to understand the health of a democracy. Reducing them to spectacle is a disservice. India does not merely have the problem of inaccurate poll projections, but a collapsing polling ecosystem marked by opacity, weak incentives, and declining standards. If this trajectory continues, exit polls will not just fail to predict elections but will fail the very idea of democratic accountability. ■

The author is a Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi. Views expressed here are personal

We can't just count heat deaths, we must count human suffering, too

Over the past decade, India has set new heat records almost every summer. Maharashtra's Akola recently hit 49.6°C, while Banda in UP sweltered at 47.6°C. ***Dr Satchit Balsari,*** *associate professor of emergency medicine at Harvard Medical School and co-author of a new study on extreme heat, speaks to* ***Himanshi Dhawan*** *about the toll on informal workers*

FOR THE RECORD

■ Indian summers have always been hot, but what has changed in the last few years and how severe could its impact be?

What has changed is the nature, frequency, and duration of extreme heat. We are seeing heat that arrives early, persists for longer, and reaches higher temperatures both during the day and at night. ILO estimates that up to 200 million people in the country could face lethal heat conditions as early as 2030, while rising heat stress is projected to account for tens of millions of lost jobs globally. At an administrative scale, prolonged and extreme heat stresses the energy grid as well, further imperilling livelihoods and health. Our understanding of heat threats must move beyond heatwaves and comprise definitions that account for long exposures, nighttime extremes, physiological impact, and importantly, adaptation capacity.

■ Your research highlights the limits of measuring impacts in terms of mortality. Why is this approach inadequate?

Around the world, deaths from heat make headlines. While this is undoubtedly an important metric, by only measuring deaths we fail to account for the millions of person-hours of suffering and ill health that precede them. The impact of heat on the human body, mediated largely through the cardiovascular system, manifests as heat illness, heat stroke, and finally death. Time is of the essence in recognising and treating these conditions before they turn fatal. Effective management of hyperthermia can be expensive and will need to be contextualised to resource-limited settings in India, where the availability of cold water and ice cannot be taken for granted. What we caution against is limiting our imagination to these extremes. Long before the impact of heat on human health is visible, its effect on existing diseases, including kidney failure, is insidious and damaging. Fatigue and exhaustion result in significant wage losses during the day, apart from the loss of clients and demand during peak heat hours. At night, shortened and poor-quality sleep for weeks on end precludes recovery. Understanding the full burden of heat is important.

■ How does it reinforce income inequality?

Informal workers, who make up around 90% of India's workforce, bear both the highest exposure to heat and the largest share of its costs. Many work outdoors or in poorly ventilated environments and live in housing that does not cool down at night. They typically lack employer-provided protection, paid sick leave, or enforceable rights to basic safeguards such as shade, water, and rest breaks. There is growing evidence that the poorest suffer significant wage losses during the hottest days, when their own expenses are likely to be highest. They invest in ways to shade their workspaces, cool and hydrate themselves, and pay for heat-related health expenses. Current multilateral funding instruments, of which there are few, that fund heat adaptation efforts do not have a mechanism to reach those most directly impacted.

■ What are the structural issues that need to be addressed to tackle heat?

Investment in green spaces that are actually open to the public on the hottest days of the year, along with access to water and cooled spaces in urban and rural environments, merits urgent attention at scale, as several heat action plans have already called for. One opportunity to effect change at scale is the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, where, until now, there has been understandable emphasis on sanitation. Ventilation and passive cooling must now become non-negotiable. The homes of the poor do not cool down adequately at night, and millions return to these spaces throughout the hot months and never fully recover. India has an opportunity to improve conditions for a significant share of the global population most at risk from extreme heat.

■ You recommend reframing heat not just as a public health issue but as a macroeconomic and fiscal risk.

Heat is already a macroeconomic variable. There is emerging evidence that heat waves can predict food inflation. We also know that it reduces labour productivity, increases energy demand, and accelerates wear on infrastructure. These are core drivers of growth, prices, and public expenditure, not externalities that can be easily written off. Extreme heat functions like a recurring negative supply shock. Govts are already spending significantly on heat through health systems, disaster response, energy subsidies, and water provisioning. Making these costs visible is the first step. Tools like budget tagging can help track heat-related spending and assess whether it is reactive or strategic. Recognising heat as a fiscal risk also strengthens the case for anticipatory financing, acting before temperatures peak rather than after, because early action is consistently cheaper than post-event relief.

■ How can India build a 'cool economy'?

A 'cool economy', as we envision it, is one where heat resilience is built into how core systems are designed and operated, not added on as a response to crises. That spans buildings, labour, public health, and infrastructure. It begins with the built environment: scaling passive design, improving housing performance, and reducing dependence on energy-intensive cooling. Cities need shaded public spaces, water access, and infrastructure that reduces exposure. It also requires rethinking work through enforceable protections, adjusted hours, and safer conditions for heat-exposed workers. But for all this to happen, heat has to be recognised as a recurring economic risk.

Sathankulam verdict raises deeper questions about custodial violence

BY INVITATION

ANUP SURENDRANATH

The Madurai Sessions Court's judgment finding nine policemen guilty for the custodial killings of Jayaraj and Bennix in Sathankulam marks a rare and significant moment in India's criminal justice landscape. In a country where custodial deaths are frequent, yet convictions remain extremely rare, this judgment stands as a testament to the persistence of a grieving family, committed lawyers, and civil society actors who refused to let the case fade into institutional silence. However, death sentences for all nine policemen raise a different set of concerns.

The public response has been emphatic. The custodial murders of Jayaraj and Bennix generated shock and outrage during the Covid-19 pandemic. And the widespread support for the death sentences is seen as a reflection of the view that when the protectors become perpetrators, the law must respond with its severest sanction.

But it is precisely here that we must interrogate what this punishment represents and what it conceals. To treat the death penalty as an expression of us taking custodial violence seriously is deeply misleading. Much like the death penalty more generally, it risks becoming a politics of distraction. A singular, dramatic act that obscures a far more uncomfortable truth, the truth that custodial violence is systemic, routine, and largely unpunished.

Recent parliamentary data shows that custodial deaths remain stubbornly persistent. Between 2021 and 2026, the number of custodial deaths reported each year ranged between 140 and 176, with 170 cases in 2025-26 alone. Yet accountability is almost non-existent. In the same period, the National Human Rights Commission recommended disciplinary action in just one case from Tamil Nadu. This is not a system that has suddenly discovered moral clarity in Sathankulam. It is one that has long tolerated impunity for custodial violence.The Human Rights Watch report 'Bound by Brotherhood' documents how investigations are often compromised, with police shielding their own, witnesses intimidated, and even medical evidence manipulated. As the report notes, police frequently fail to follow basic arrest procedures such as informing families or producing detainees before a magistrate, creating conditions where abuse thrives unchecked. Against this backdrop, the death penalty in Sathankulam is spectacle rather than transformative. By framing the violence as the act of a few "monstrous" officers, it allows deeper questions about policing culture and accountability to remain unaddressed.

There is also the question of law. The Supreme Court has consistently held that sentencing must be individualised, and that the nature of the crime alone cannot determine whether the death penalty is imposed. Yet in the Sathankulam judgment, all nine were held deserving of equal punishment.

Individualised sentencing is a constitutional safeguard and not a technicality. It demands that courts examine the specific role, circumstances, and culpability of each accused before imposing the ultimate punishment. To bypass this requirement, even in a case as egregious as Sathankulam, risks undermining the very legal standards that are meant to constrain the use of the death penalty. It may be argued that such concerns are misplaced and that the focus should remain on justice being done in this case. But it is in precisely such cases that our commitment to the rule of law is tested. The broader data on death penalty sentencing in India should give us pause. Over the past decade, high courts have set aside or commuted nearly 82% of death sentences imposed by trial courts, confirming about 9.7%. At the SC level, the pattern is similar: only around 12% of death sentences are ultimately upheld. For the last three years, SC has not confirmed a single death sentence of the criminal appeals it has heard. These figures reveal a consistent pattern of trial courts adopting a crime-centric approach, allowing the brutality of the offence to dominate sentencing decisions, only for appellate courts to later intervene. This points to a deeper tension between public sentiment and constitutional principle. The demand for harsh punishment, particularly in cases like Sathankulam, is understandable. But courts are not meant to mirror public outrage. Their role is to uphold the law, even (and especially) when doing so is difficult.

The death sentences in Sathankulam offer us a false sense of closure. Custodial violence demands that we confront institutional realities, that we are unflinching in our efforts to end impunity. If Sathankulam is to mean anything, it must push us beyond the shallowness of the death penalty. It must force us to ask what we are really doing to prevent other Jayaraj and Bennix. ■

Surendranath is law professor and executive director, The Square Circle Clinic at NALSAR University of Law. Views are personal

A Chinese robot can now run way faster than us. So what?

BY INVITATION

PRAJWAL HEGDE

Every runner has a reason. It may be to live with an illness, grieve, support a cause or simply to chase beta-endorphins and elevate the mood. Motivations vary, but the impulse does not. From survival to solace, running has always had a purpose. However strong that call may be, acting on it is rarely seamless — at least most days.

If it's a morning run, a formidable obstacle race plays out in the mind even before one rolls out of bed. A glance at the clock stirs a familiar negotiation: to go or not to go. A tight calf, a twinge in the knee, a hint of a wheeze, a sneeze — each sensation enters the debate. The body hesitates, the mind argues, and time ticks, but it only succeeds in delaying that first step. Endurance is the fulcrum of the game.

The part-time runner, a coder, doctor, technician or scriptwriter in another life, gets out of bed and laces up not because it is easy, but because it is necessary. Almost like the air they breathe. For them, the challenge is not the race, but the decision to renew vows each morning. For the elite, the calculus is different. Olympic champions such as marathoners Tamirat Tola and Sifan Hassan, the most recent owners of the golden run in Paris, run to win. For the amateur, victory is simpler, and often harder, coming as it does at the start or end of 10-hour working days. The triumph is in crossing the finish line; everything else is a bonus.

Meanwhile, on a 12-degree April morning in Beijing, a humanoid robot called Lightning, built by the Chinese smartphone maker Honor, outpaced human competitors in the half-marathon, completing the 21.1 km race in 50 minutes 26 seconds. Lightning, fiery red and standing 169 cm (5 ft 6.5 in) tall, ran in metronomic precision, sans any of the theatre that defines human movement. No sweat, no drag of the weaker limb, no story, just a machine in motion, all function and no feeling.

The record it beat was held by Ugandan Jacob Kiplimo, who ran the world's fastest half-marathon in Lisbon in March, clocking a world record time of 57 minutes 20 seconds. Kiplimo, 25, and 5 ft 10, grew up in Kween district on the slopes of Mount Elgon, an extinct shield volcano. As a child, he would run five kilometres at altitude to get to school, miles that would lay the foundation for the world record.

In London last Sunday, Kenyan Sabastian Sawe carved his name into history as the first man to cover 42.195 km in under two hours, stopping the clock at 1:59:30. The race drew 59,000 participants, about 56% men, 44% women, and 0.15% non-binary. There was, fittingly, no robot at the start line.

So, what if a humanoid is faster? It is a triumph of science and engineering, but so are cars, scooters and bicycles, all of which can outrun a human with ease. But that was never the point.

NO SWEAT, NO PAIN: A machine like 'Lightning' can redefine speed but that is not the essence of running

For humans, running is evolutionarily baked in. We developed endurance running, long before it became a thing, for hunting, for escaping danger and for communication and travel. Over time, these instincts evolved into modern motivations, beginning with physical health. More recently, running has taken on a deeper role in mental and emotional well-being. For many, it reduces anxiety and stress, releases endorphins and provides clarity, routine, and relief from the everyday rigour of being tied to a desk. Beyond health, running becomes a source of identity and meaning. 'I'm a runner' is more than a statement; it echoes discipline and resilience. Completing a marathon, half-marathon, or a 10-km run can symbolise overcoming injury, hardship, personal limits, or closing the door on doubt. Running is also communal. Clubs, group runs, and events turn shared suffering into a connection. From local meetups to global stages, it creates a sense of belonging. Few activities are as simple, or as powerful, in bringing people together as running.

Jesse Owens, a sprinter and long jumper widely regarded as one of the greatest in track and field, rose to international prominence at the 1936 Summer Olympics. There, he won four gold medals, in the 100 metres, long jump, 200 metres and 4×100-metre relay, becoming the most successful athlete of the Games and, as a Black American, his wins struck at the core of Aryan supremacy, the vibe at that quadrennial affair. But glory proved fleeting. When Owens returned home, opportunity did not follow; he was reportedly forced to run exhibition races, sometimes against horses, to make a living. The Olympic champion is quoted as calling the exercise degrading, but four medals, as he put it, were not enough to feed him.

The comparison is imperfect, but instructive. Unless humans are reduced to racing machines to earn a wage, the spectacle of a humanoid winning a half-marathon misses the point. The robot's victory does not make human running obsolete; it only makes it more human. Machines run for efficiency, to demonstrate the advances of science. Humans run for a reason. ■

WORD DROP

BLANDING

Earlier this week, Godrej changed its iconic logo with something more minimalist, neutral and, to some eyes, a bit bland. It's part of a growing trend known as 'blanding', where brands trade distinctiveness for neutrality in a digital ecosystem that rewards familiarity. Recommendation engines push what already works, nudging creators and

Image: AI

brands toward sameness defined by muted palettes, minimalist fonts, and inoffensive messaging. It offers a kind of visual identity that is easy to consume, easy to produce, and broadly palatable. However, it also leads to homogenisation: there's less surprise, less edge, and once-quirky brand identities pave the way for something far more forgettable.

INBOX

SAFEGUARD TOOLS

This refers to the column 'More eyes, more...' (ATM, Apr 26), to safeguard ourselves against CCTV hacking, regular safety audits, enforcing cybersecurity standards for all surveillance equipment, regular software updates, and secure authentication protocols are necessary.

—Bal Govind, Noida

Email your letters to the editor at *sunday.times@timesofindia.com* with 'Sunday Mailbox' in the subject line. Please mention your name and city

The Devil Wears Thin! Why has fashion become such a bore?

BY INVITATION

MANJIMA BHATTACHARJYA

A decade ago, it seemed as though fashion and feminism were cautiously coming closer, or at least no longer placed on opposite sides of a public boxing ring. What women wore was becoming more and more contentious. If fashion was becoming more feminist in its explicit messaging, feminists, too, of a new generation were choosing to use fashion to rip out of straitjackets.

Today is another story: both feminism and fashion are hostages (in differing degrees) to groupthink and the elephant in the room, late-stage capitalism.

An evening spent at a luxury mall in Mumbai last week, having turned up too early for a show, revealed an empty grand mall, barring a few stragglers and employees hanging about. Not a single fancy shop from Gucci to Tiffany to Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla had a customer. Their stiff facade and storefronts, ornate and bejewelled with the occasional uniformed staff peeping out with a bored gaze, did not encourage me to enter for a light browse. The only shop that was more accessible was the new giant Muji store, now resembling an IKEA without the meatballs or children's play area.

Despite zero footfall, new shops were opening relentlessly, more designer stores hidden away behind grand declamations on draped canvas, announcing they were Coming Soon! Sitting in front of one such canvas sparked a rumination on fashion's regrettable turn to luxury.

Who was shopping here? What was the brand's logic? Was the business model such that even one or two luxury sales a week could support this infrastructure? I once delighted in thinking about the sociology of fashion and costume every month. Yet fashion, as it presents itself today, is of little interest to me now. I could say: it's not you (fashion), it's me. But the more I think of it, I feel that yes, it is fashion to blame.

Please tell me a genuine fashion influencer who is really thinking about fashion in a way that blows our minds. Not people selling brands, teaching middle India how to pronounce names of foreign luxury brands, or servicing MNCs dumping neutral crap in Indian markets. With stylists dressing celebrities young and old (often in the same way), it is hard to tell who has any real style anymore. Everyone looks the same. There is a lot of tiresome template cosplaying. Then there is the mad pricing of clothes, from the handloom chains to designers. Nothing makes sense anymore.

Fashion's story in the last few years has been complex: a rise in Indian designers presenting at global fashion weeks, massive corporate investments in designer brands that enable them to scale, having to contend with the explosion of the beauty industry and having to compete with global luxury design houses for the $$$. Noticeably, the fashion industry, which once enthusiastically embraced body positivity, DEI and Black Lives Matter, is rescinding on its inclusive, progressive mandate of the last decade and quietly retreating to its thin, Caucasian antecedents. Case in point: the American Eagle jeans advertisement with a Caucasian actress and the tagline "Sydney Sweeney has great jeans". 'Jeans' sounding just like 'genes' is not a coincidence, most people opined. It was deliberately inflected with a sly, supremacist, sexist tone – a reflection of fashion blowing with the political wind of the times.

Alongside are the peripheral trends struggling to counter this overproduction, alienation, and conflict between price and value. The rising hum of sustainable fashion. The magpie joys of thrifting. The faint rumblings of demanding accountability from fashion houses. In the last two years, we've seen consumers boycotting fast fashion brands with connections to Israel, as part of global solidarity with Palestine. Last June, Prada showcased Kolhapuri chappals as 'leather sandals' in their menswear show in Milan, leading to outrage around cultural appropriation without credit. After the backlash, which included official complaints, Prada acknowledged the 'Indian inspiration' and initiated local partnerships. The sandals were still priced at Rs 85,000 a pair. Who creates the value, and who monetises it?

TIRED TEMPLATE: Luxury fashion now has to rely on films to drive enthusiasm

The Devil Wears Prada 2 has come to the screens. Except now, in a sense, The Devil is Prada. Maybe the fact that they had to resurrect this film is an indication of how dire things are in the global luxury market.

Fashion's central creative motor seems to have been replaced by an aggressive business one. Everything seems overwhelmingly engineered to produce good consumers, rather than expressive individuals. The minutes were ticking, and it was finally time to get off the soft pink velvet couch in the mall under the gargantuan chandelier and head towards the theatre for the show.

One left with some final thoughts: What was the real cost of this turn? Would fashion be able to keep its unique and special ability to convert the ephemeral, the intangible mood of a time, into material things? Would it tell us fifty years later of this time, this moment? Would it tell the story of people, cultures and experiments with modernity? I suppose only time will tell. ■

Bhattacharjya is a feminist researcher and author of 'Mannequin'

In dire straits, let's look for the solar lining

Abhijit Banerjee

TASTING ECONOMICS

I remember running down the stairs in my aunt's house as fast as I could; the counting was getting faster, signalling that the end was nigh. We were playing hide and seek, and it was my older, bigger, faster cousin's turn to find me. I ran past the courtyard, staying close to the wall to avoid being seen from upstairs, and pushed on a closed door. It gave way, and I stepped in and hastily closed the door. The windows seemed shuttered, and I couldn't find the light switch, but in feeling my way around, I had the sense that the walls were strangely clammy, with a layer of dust on them.

But I was safe; my cousin ran past the door, and I could hear him go back up. After an appropriate delay, I came out and yelled to announce my victory, which is when my aunt saw me and gave out a cry of horror. I was apparently so covered with coal dust that only my eyes could be seen. It was their coal-room where I had taken shelter. Cooking happened on a large coal-burning clay oven built into their kitchen wall, and next to it was a coal-room where giant slabs of coal were stored and broken into the right-sized chunks when needed. It was messy and polluting but also cheap and convenient; the burners were large enough to accommodate the giant cauldrons of water that had to be boiled for the rice to feed a joint family of 20 or more.

This was still the 1960s, and gas stoves were a novelty; we had one, but my mother prided herself for being at the technological edge, "After all, I am an engineer's daughter," she would say with a smile that touched her eyes but barely moved her mouth. There was much discussion about these stoves in the living rooms: are they safe — not entirely, it turned out: there were occasional cylinder explosions and leaks that went on for too long and turned into a fire. There were also these awful stories of saris catching fire, but the fact that they were very often young married women, and there was sometimes a vague cloud of dowry conflict around them, hinted at possibilities other than a pure accident.

There were also, inevitably, questions about whether the food would taste right. Over extended visits to houses that used coal, I discovered that the embers took a long time to fully extinguish themselves, and a peapod or pepper or potato stuck into them could be collected some hours later, cooked, charred, and smoky, delicious with a pinch of salt and a drizzle of mustard oil. That would not be an option with the gas stove, which went off as soon as the knob was turned.

On the other hand, gas stoves were quick: the oil would heat up fast, making it possible to put together a quick batch of kachoris for the unexpected guest. I pride myself as a fast cook, but the speed at which my aunts and their generation could produce a delicious kachori or loochi (the Bengali, all-maida version of a puri, all starch and fat and deliciousness) with a sabzi of potatoes or cauliflower, was something else (I know one person, nearing 90, who still does that when I visit).

Still, gas was clearly the coming thing. As the joint family fragmented and people moved to small flats with smaller kitchens and limited exhausts, the fact that gas was much cleaner and took less space became a prime consideration. But it was still expensive and

In the 1960s, gas stoves were a novelty. Inevitably, there were questions about taste. Over visits to houses that used coal, I discovered that a pepper or potato stuck into them could be collected some hours later, smoky and delicious. However, gas stoves were quick

rationed; there were these days when the gas ran out, and the next cylinder was not forthcoming. We heard reports of housewives bribing and/or sweet-talking the gas-man to hand someone else's quota over to them. And for many, joint families for instance, one cylinder per month just was not enough. For example, the nice woman who ran a small street-side eatery (maacch-bhat-dal-sabzi 15 rupees, 3 rupees less if you take duck egg curry instead of fish) in our neighborhood stuck to her portable coal-burning

Illustration by **Cheyenne Olivier (France)**

stove and a kerosene burner until the end of the 1980s. The sweet and pungent fragrance of well-fried onion paste from her *maaccher jhol* that I would smell in passing (I always thought I would eat there one day, but I never did) was often drowned by the acrid vapours from burning kerosene.

But as foreign exchange became less tight and gas connections more easily available, even my aunt's very conservative in-laws bowed to the inevitable. Today, there are 32 crore LPG (cylinder gas) connections in India, plus more than 1 crore who enjoy the convenience of piped gas. Of these, about 10 crore are covered under the government's Ujjwala scheme, which offers a subsidy of about 20% to lower-income households, with the reasonable idea that gas cooking is less polluting than the coal, cow-dung or twigs that the poor end up using, and therefore better both for the world and for the cook and her family. I suspect our neighborhood eatery, if it still exists, has now switched to gas, along with most roadside vendors.

But gas is also a huge burden on the economy; we import a large majority of our LPG supply, and 90% of those imports came through the Strait of Hormuz. Which is why the internet is now full of stories and memes about what happens when gas runs out. The current crisis will end, but if the players in the oil futures market are to be trusted, not very soon. For those not steeped in the vocabulary of modern finance, futures markets offer the option of buying some number of barrels of oil today, for delivery in May or June or even next January. If traders in the market, which include a lot of professionals who use large quantities of oil, expect the crisis to end soon, the prices for May delivery would be substantially below current prices, which alas, they are not. Nor are June prices that much lower; July looks better, but still 50% higher than in December 2025, before Messrs Trump and Netanyahu started this mess. In fact, even in January 2027, the market suggests oil prices will be 20% higher than in December 2025.

Market experts have been wrong before, even very wrong (for full disclosure, I write this while preparing a lecture on stock market idiocies), but the market price has the advantage of aggregating large numbers of opinions, so it might be the best we can do. If we take seriously what the futures markets are saying, the war might end (Trump seems to be getting some heat in that direction), but the overall hostilities will take longer to sort out. And even if Iran continues to be nice to "friend India" which is nice of them, given our tepid response to the unilateral declaration of war by the Americans and Israelis (indeed, Bibi was clearly applying final touches to this plan between hugs with PM Modi), if the global price of energy stays up by say 20% as the markets suggest, we, as one of the biggest buyers of both petroleum and natural gas, will end up with a big problem. As we know, despite assurances from the government that everything is under control, poor people are going without meals (perhaps because of panic buying by those who have the wherewithal to do so). What the numbers imply is that even if the flow of gas eases, so that those who are willing to pay will be able to get the cylinders they desire, prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG are all about to go up. Maybe I am cynical, but after the election results, seems like a reasonable guess about when that will happen. When it happens, the prices of food will unfortunately follow suit, since they are closely linked to transport costs and the world's poor will once again pay for Donald Trump's misplaced machismo.

The point is not to blame the government for this particular global catastrophe, but to underscore that it is one more reason to hasten our move away from petroleum dependence. And not towards coal, please — our air is already among the worst in the world and killing many millions. The move towards renewables is, in fact, happening, but in the meanwhile, there is no reason not to encourage individuals to do their bit. Solar power from a solar panel that charges a battery is by now familiar enough in much of India that a policy push, aided by the current crisis, may make a big difference. For cooking, there are the inexpensive solar box cookers that mostly function as slow cookers, but also cooktops connected to a solar panel and a battery, which can be used, like any other electric burner, to fry kachoris or fuel a pressure cooker. A part of the reason why everyone does not have one already is that they are not cheap (Rs 15,000 or more). Adopting the pay-as-you-go model, where clients make monthly payments while using the energy source until their loan is paid off (it gets disabled remotely if the loan repayments stop), will make it easier to overcome this barrier, and perhaps those loans could be subsidised. A number of studies from across the world suggest that these pay-as-you-go models generate high repayment rates and that subsidies speed up adoption.

But even the cheaper box cookers can produce an excellent dal-chawal, I am told, to which I want to add the wonderful *bati-chorchori*, a melange of vegetables (and perhaps shrimps) cooked in their own juices inside a closed container placed in the pot where rice or dal was cooking. Even if you still use the gas burner, say, to fry up some pakoras, going half-solar will keep the cylinder going for a few more weeks, and reduce our carbon footprint in the bargain.

This is part of a monthly column by Nobel-winning economist Abhijit Banerjee illustrated by Cheyenne Olivier

RECIPE FOR BATI CHORCHORI

To make bati chorchori, take a stainless box with a lid that closes tightly (say, a tiffin carrier) that will fit into your pressure cooker. Put in 2 tbsp mustard oil and sprinkle 1 tsp kalonji in it. Peel and cut 200 gms of potatoes into something roughly the size of the top two segments of your middle finger, and tear 200 gms of cauliflower into 1" florets (discarding the thick stems). Add to the box, along with 2/3 cup chopped tomatoes, two green chillies, 1 tsp salt and ½ tsp turmeric. Finally, add in 2/3 cup of water, mix well and close the box tightly. Place in a pressure cooker along with whatever dal you are planning for the day (say 2 cups of kala chana, soaked overnight), 2 tsp salt and 4 cups water. Pressure cook for 20 minutes. Take out the bati chorchori and sprinkle with fresh green coriander before serving.

For a non-veg variation, *chingrir bati chorchori*, cut the potatoes and cauliflower into bite-sized pieces so they cook quicker and add 150 gms peeled and cleaned shrimps that have been marinated in salt and turmeric for 5 mins. Otherwise, follow the recipe above. Place the tightly closed box in the pot along with your rice. Remove when the rice is done, sprinkle green coriander and serve.

Image: AI

INQUIZITIVE

by **JOY BHATTACHARJYA**

1 For what specific reason was the $500 Adidas shoe, the Adios Pro Evo 3, hurriedly put on pre-order on April 27th 2026, with stocks selling out almost immediately?

2 King Rajarshi Bhagyachandra, who lived and reigned in the 18th century, is regarded as documenting and codifying which Indian dance form, often performed in the Sri Sri Govindji temple in his state?

3 What is the more common name given to the fermented, effervescent, and sweetened black tea made from the Manchurian mushroom?

4 Desh Prem Azad was one of India's greatest cricket coaches. Three of his most successful pupils were Kapil Dev, Chetan Sharma and Ashok Malhotra. Name the fourth, who had a short international career but acted in many Punjabi films?

5 The Falkland Islands are a British Overseas territory on the Patagonian, an archipelago around 13000 km away from the British isles. Which is the closest nation to the Falkland Islands?

6 Jafar, an actor, played his uncle in which widely viewed 2026 biopic directed by Antoine Fuqua?

7 Bhojtal, also known as Upper Lake, and the nearby Lower Lake are two of the primary sources of drinking water to which state capital?

8 Light, Medium, Heavy, Sweet and Sour are varieties of which important global commodity?

9 What connects an award winning 1955 Indian film, a slang term in the US for marijuana usage, and a section dealing with cheating and dishonesty in the Indian Penal Code?

10 Which tree gets its name from the fact that Europeans travelling to India would often see merchants plying their trade under its shade?

ANSWERS

1 | Sabastian Sawe had just broken the WC, running a sub two hour marathon wearing those shoes on April 26th in London
2 | Manipuri, he was a Meitei king
3 | Kombucha
4 | Yograj Singh, father of Yuvraj Singh
5 | Argentina (which went to war with the UK over the territory)
6 | Michael, about Michael Jackson
7 | Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
8 | Crude oil
9 | 420. (Shree 420, 420 term for marijuana and Section 420 of the IPC)
10 | Banyan Tree (from the Banias or merchants who sat under it)

'Why should rappers have all the fun?' How Rishab Sharma made the sitar sexy again

With an LED-lit sitar, DJ instincts, and a wellness twist, the Gen Z musician is turning riyaaz into reels, and classical music recitals into roaring arenas

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SUNDAY PROFILE

The sitar with its 20 strings has been around for five centuries. Rishab Rikhiram Sharma's sitar has 640 LED bulbs and looks, in his words, "like a lightsaber". He opens concerts by guiding audiences through a pranayam while digital waves and clouds swirl above him, his diamond-studded teeth catching the light because, as he sees it, "why should only rappers have all the fun?"

The 27-year-old has just wrapped up an 11-city India tour with sold-out arenas where three generations sit and sway. His finale at Delhi's DDA Ground in Dwarka last month had the sweep of an international gig, Coldplay if you will, with pyrotechnics, vast backdrops and radio-controlled LED wristbands across the audience lighting up in sync.

So, has Sharma given the sitar a second wind, or simply a clever new shine? Possibly both. "If 20,000 people are turning up for a sitar concert, we have officially entered the pop space," he tells you unapologetically. "What is pop music? It's popular music," he explains. "If classical becomes pop, it's a huge achievement for me."

Musically, Sharma moves through ragas the way a DJ plays a set — short, familiar phrases and then moving briskly to the next, before attention dips. At one point, he jumps off stage and walks into the crowd, brushing hands with fans and prompting chants that ripple through the crowd, before returning to play his glowing "next-gen sitara" like a guitar, sliding into 'Kal Ho Naa Ho' and other Bollywood staples.

Gen Z gave us the phrase 'aura-farming', and this may be it.

BEFORE THE SPECTACLE

Sharma, fourth generation of Delhi's Rikhiram family — one of India's most storied instrument-makers — picked up the guitar first because "it was cool". His father, having watched guitars flung about and played with unwashed hands, was adamant. "He was like, 'you're not touching a sitar at all'," recalls Sharma. The embargo lifted when a 10-year-old Rishab picked up a broken sitar his father had repaired and instinctively played the scales. By his early teens, he was performing publicly.

That early promise acquired a far grander lineage, not without some debate. Sharma maintains he was a disciple of Ravi Shankar, a claim contested by his daughter Anoushka Shankar. Sharma attempts to address the controversy. "See, a relationship between a guru and disciple is very personal. And a guru himself decides when a disciple is ready. I'll just leave it at that."

RAGA AS THERAPY

The jump from a luthier workshop to the White House and Burning Man — and to perhaps India's most Instagrammable classical musician — ran through several detours.

There was New York for a dual degree in music and economics, a deadmau5 concert at Sunburn Delhi that rewired him — "I was blown away by how the LED mouse head he wore was synced to music" — and then a Clubhouse rabbit hole during the pandemic, where he played his sitar at all hours for strangers who couldn't sleep or leave their rooms. Neither could he.

> If there are 20,000 people turning up for a sitar concert, we have officially entered the pop space. What is pop music? It's popular music. And if classical becomes pop, that's a huge achievement for me

> I don't believe an art form will survive if all we say is, 'our music is dying, please support it'. Asceticism is good, but at the end of the day you need money in the bank. You have to re-innovate that asceticism

After his grandfather passed away during the lockdown, Sharma stopped eating, sleeping or playing. "I was in my room with my laptop, not coming out." What pulled him out was therapy, then the sitar. "And I was like, wow, where were you?"

That recovery — playing for an audience who didn't know Raga Lalit from a ringtone but found themselves sitting with alaaps and jhalas at odd hours "because something in them needed to" — birthed 'Sitar for Mental Health', something of a musical refuge. Now in its sixth year, it has a global following across the US, Canada, and West Asia. But he is careful to draw a line. "I don't claim to be a therapist or a healer. I just pass on what I like. My shows are not a therapy session."

CLASSICAL IS COOL

He insists the sitar itself is not lacking even as he brandishes his EDM stagecraft-inspired sitar and blends ragas with trap and hip hop. "The sitar is more than enough...I just like to do cool experiments. We don't have to go to the moon, but it's cool to go to the moon, right?"

That is also what unsettles classical purists and charms everyone else. Unfazed by those who call his craft "an overhyped spectacle", Sharma quotes Kishori Amonkar and fashion designer Virgil Abloh in the same breath. "There have been so many invasions in our music," he recalls Amonkar saying, after she was accused of stepping beyond her gharana. Then turns to Abloh: "A broken candle in a garage is just a broken candle, but if you keep it in the middle of a museum, it's an art piece.... You have to create that mahaul."

For a Gen Z-coded sitarist, he is refreshingly free of cultivated cool-guy detachment. Asked what he listens to off the sitar, he pulls up a playlist that hops from Kanye West and Daniel Caesar to Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, amused by his own range.

That ease comes from his circle of ustads and pandits, who he insists are supportive. "They've seen me as a kid.... I'd choreograph my dances, always dressed a certain way...they find what I do to be a very Rishab thing to do." They do remind him to return to riyaaz. "Which is obvious. I've just started."

Outside that, there have been questions on whether this is wellness, classical, or a dilution of both, turning raga into something like an essential oil. And yet, it attracts listeners who would never sit through a two-hour classical recital. "I don't believe an art form will survive if we only say, 'Our music is dying, please support it'." He is impatient with the old martyrdom. "Asceticism is good, but at the end of the day, you need money in your bank.... You have to re-innovate that asceticism."

SWAG, SHRINGAR AND 'SHO-SHA'

He speaks the language of therapy, then appears in military jackets, mehndi and statement jewellery — looking like someone you'd spot in a Bollywood period drama or a fashion week. For Delhi, he wore a golden armour. "My next project is going to be called 'Weapons of Mass Peace'...so even my outfits are going to speak the same design language."

The aesthetic, or what he calls "shringar", is not incidental. "I've always loved dressing up.... I had style but didn't have money to support my fashion choices," he says. "The only time men dress up is at their weddings. Now, every show feels like I'm getting married. I wonder what I'll wear at my wedding," he laughs.

There is method to his flourish. "It makes me feel I'll put in my best performance. It might be a placebo, but I believe in that." He studied how maharajas dressed and started sketching. Sketches he admits are "terrible" but travel through designers before arriving on stage.

"Our concerts are like festivals. People dress up, put on mehndi. It's almost like a wonderful cult," he says. Cult is perhaps too strong a word. A community, certainly, built on the idea that if you cannot bring the audience to the baithak, you take the baithak to wherever they already are. Which is why his show, wardrobe and social feed matter as much as a dash of Hogwarts or Game of Thrones on sitar strings.

He performs for the room and for the phone in the room, candid that the 'sho-sha' some bristle at is also what keeps them hooked. His 4.6 million Instagram following is no accident. Nor are the 'Swag'-titled album, magazine covers, or the occasional glimpse of a private jet he neither flaunts nor hides. "The only way to empower is to show... And I don't mean it in a braggy way," he explains. "So, a kid or their parents can see that classical music can take you places."

Spirit Airlines ends service as Iran war clips budget carrier's wings

Fuel Price Spike Derails Exit Plan On Bankruptcy

DISPIRITING DEPARTURE

Washington: Bankrupt discount carrier Spirit Airlines ceased operations on Saturday, the industry's first casualty linked to the Iran war, after failing to secure creditor support for a US govt bailout plan.

The collapse of the carrier following a doubling in jet fuel prices during the two-month-old Iran war will cost thousands of jobs. It is a blow to President Donald Trump, who had proposed $500 million to save Spirit despite opposition from some of his closest advisers and many Republicans in Congress. No US carrier of Spirit's size — it accounted for 5% of US flights at one point — has liquidated in two decades. Spirit helped keep fares lower in markets where it competed against major carriers.

A Spirit board meeting had ended without an agreement to rescue the company. "Unfortunately, despite the company's efforts, the recent material increase in oil prices and other pressures on the business have significantly impacted Spirit's financial outlook," Spirit said in a statement announcing "an orderly wind-down of operations."

All flights have been cancelled, the statement said, asking passengers not to go to the airport. Global carriers are contending with surging jet fuel prices since the US-Israeli strikes on Iran disrupted traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, in the air travel industry's worst crisis since the pandemic. REUTERS

Gaza flotilla: Spain slams 'illegal' detention of citizen

Spain on Saturday condemned the "illegal detention" of one of its citizens who was taken to Israel after being seized in an Israeli military operation against a Gaza aid flotilla in international waters. Saif Abu Keshek "must be released immediately so that he can return to Spain", Spanish foreign minister Jose Manuel Albares told Racl radio. "We are facing an illegal detention in international waters, outside any jurisdiction of the Israeli authorities."

Israeli forces on Wednesday night intercepted the flotilla, a group of more than 50 vessels seeking to break an Israeli blockade of Gaza to deliver needed supplies. The vessels were boarded in international waters off Greece.

Organisers said armed Israeli personnel smashed equipment on the vessels, leaving them helpless and incommunicado at sea. AFP

Israel razes Catholic convent in Lebanon

Beirut: Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon killed at least seven people and wounded others on Saturday while the Israeli military demolished parts of a Catholic convent in a border village, officials said.

Israel's military on Saturday issued a new warning for residents of nine southern villages to evacuate. Israel and Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group have kept up their attacks despite a ceasefire in place since April 17.

In the border village of Yaroun, Israel's military used bulldozers to destroy parts of a Catholic convent that had been empty as a result of the latest fighting. "What we heard is that it was destroyed with bulldozers," said Gladys Sabbagh, the superior general of the Basilian Salvatorian Sisters. The convent included a school, shut since the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war, as well as a clinic. AP

As Prez Trump likens US navy to pirates, ship hijacked off Yemen

Arab Nations, Israel To Buy $9Bn US Weapons; China Shrugs Off Curbs

President Donald Trump said on Friday the US Navy was acting "like pirates" as he described an operation seizing a ship amid the tit-for-tat American blockade of Iranian ports. "We... land on top of it and we took over the ship. We took over the cargo, took over the oil. It's a very profitable business," Trump said at a rally in Florida.

"We're like pirates," he added to cheers from the crowd. "We're sort of like pirates. But we're not playing games." Trump's comparison of US naval activity to piracy comes as legal experts raise alarms about Iran's blockade of the vital Strait of Hormuz.

"You see all of those ships... they're all over the place... (in Hormuz) We have a navy that is unbelievable... it's a blockade. You see all of those big gorgeous ships... they're coming to Texas to load up... There's so much oil... (oil) prices will drop like a rock
DONALD TRUMP

Oil tanker hijacked off Yemen, diverted to Somalia

Meanwhile, unidentified attackers hijacked an oil tanker on Saturday off the coast of Yemen in the Gulf of Aden and directed it towards Somalia, the Yemeni coast guard said. According to the agency, the tanker EUREKA was seized off Yemen's Shabwa province by a group who "boarded, took control of it, then steered it... in the direction of the Somali coast". The coast guard, which is affiliated with Yemen's internationally recognised govt, vowed to investigate the attack.

US state dept hurriedly OKs $9bn weapons sales

US secretary of state Marco Rubio has approved expedited arms transfers to Israel, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, bypassing a standard congressional review to rush air defence missiles and laser guidance systems to West Asia as the Iran war ceasefire seems ever more fragile. The agreements amount to nearly $9 billion, according to the state department. The department authorised the sale to Israel of as many as 10,000 Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System-II All Up Rounds, worth $992.4 million and manufactured by BAE Systems.

Beijing tells Chinese cos to ignore US curbs on refiners

China ordered companies in the country not to comply with US sanctions on five domestic refiners linked to the Iranian oil trade, in a defiant move aimed at softening the impact of penalties. The refiners — including Hengli Petrochemical (Dalian) Refinery that was sanctioned last month and several other privately-owned processors — had been facing asset freezes and transaction bans.

The US steps unlawfully restrict normal trade with third countries and breach international norms, the country's commerce ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

Russia, Iran FMs discuss freedom of navigation

Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov held a phone conversation with Iranian foreign minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Friday, exchanging views on freedom of navigation and issues surrounding Iran's nuclear programme, the Russian ministry of foreign affairs said. Russia reaffirmed its support for the ongoing mediation efforts and its readiness to fully support the political and diplomatic process to reach sustainable agreements. AFP & IANS

Germany is hub of US' Europe ops

▶ Continued from page 1

Trump had lashed out at Chancellor Friedrich Merz, saying in one social media post, "The Chancellor of Germany should spend more time on ending the war with Russia/Ukraine (Where he has been totally ineffective!), and fixing his broken Country, especially Immigration and Energy, and less time on interfering with those that are getting rid of the Iran Nuclear threat, thereby making the World, including Germany, a safer place!"

German officials, for their part, signalled the decision did not come as a complete surprise given the growing rift in the transatlantic alliance, with Spain, France, Italy, and UK increasingly ticked off with the Trump tempests.

The move will affect an army brigade combat team and other units, reversing part of the post-2022 surge of US forces to Europe following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But it also casts a shadow over US commitment to Nato, an alliance Trump has repeatedly criticised as overly dependent on American power.

Germany is not just another host nation. With roughly 35,000 US troops and between 20 and 40 military installations, it is the hub of American military operations in Europe, and hosts the largest concentration of US troops abroad after Japan (50,000). Facilities such as Ramstein Air Base and the headquarters of US European Command and US Africa Command underpin operations extending far beyond the continent, including missions in West Asia and Africa. Across Europe, the US maintains about 65,000 to 70,000 troops, meaning Germany alone hosts over half of that military footprint.

There is an unmistakable irony in Trump's latest confrontation with Berlin. His grandfather, Friedrich Trump, emigrated from the German village of Kallstadt in the late 19th century, making Trump, whose original family name is said to be Drumpf, a relatively recent descendant compared to predecessors like Eisenhower and Nixon, whose German ancestry is more distant.

The decision also reflects broader questions about the scale and cost of America's global military posture. The US maintains more than 700 bases across over 80 countries, with between 170,000 and 220,000 personnel stationed abroad — an expeditionary network unmatched in modern history, its fallout captured in movies such as "Buffalo Soldiers" and "Sayonara". Sustaining it costs an estimated $50 billion to $70 billion annually, covering operations, infrastructure, logistics, and personnel.

Within Trump's MAGA coalition, the withdrawal aligns with a growing sentiment that the US should scale back its overseas commitments and focus resources nearer home or on more pressing theatres such as the Indo-Pacific. That view has long shaped Trump's approach to Europe, where he has accused allies of failing to meet defence spending commitments.

The decision has already drawn criticism from US lawmakers concerned about the strategic signal it sends. But for all its immediate political overtones, the withdrawal reflects a deeper shift in the transatlantic relationship.

Since World War II, US forces in Germany have symbolised not just military power but a strategic and cultural bond between America and Europe. That makes the current moment all the more striking: A president with direct familial roots in Germany is presiding over a partial unraveling of the very security architecture that emerged from that shared history.

US HAS 700 BASES IN 80 NATIONS

- **The United States maintains** over 700 bases across over 80 countries
- 170,000 to 220,000 personnel **are stationed worldwide**; 50k in Okinawa, Japan
- Running **these bases costs $50 billion to $70 bn annually,** covering operations, infrastructure, logistics, and personnel

Personnel in Europe

- The United States had approximately **68,000 active-duty military personnel, excluding those on rotation,** assigned permanently to its overseas bases in Europe as of Dec
- The US military is **spread over 31 permanent bases** and a further 19 military sites

What's USEUCOM

The United States European Command or USEUCOM **oversees US military operations across Europe, working with Nato allies through six component commands** representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Special Operations Forces and the newly established Space Force. These components are headquartered in Germany and Italy

Bases in Europe

Germany, Italy and Britain have the biggest presence of US personnel

Germany | Largest US base in Europe is the air base near the German city of Ramstein, where troops have been stationed since 1952. In southern Germany, US Army Garrison Bavaria, headquartered in Grafenwoehr, is a major training hub for forces in Europe

Italy | US military forces have been stationed in Italy since the end of World War Two, and comprise Army, Navy and Air Force divisions

Britain | The US forces in the United Kingdom comprised 10,156 service members as of Dec, garrisoned at three bases, which mainly host Air Force personnel

Spain | Hosts American Navy and Air Force bases near the Strait of Gibraltar

Poland | Poland hosts 369 permanently assigned active-duty service members, as well as about 10,000 rotational personnel

- There is also **rotational presence of US forces** in Hungary, Romania and other ex-communist bloc countries

Source: Reuters, TOI

Proposal seeks 'permanent end to imposed war': Iran

▶ Continued from page 1

Iran deputy foreign minister Kazem Gharibabadi confirmed that Tehran's recent diplomatic proposal to the US, presented via Pakistan as a mediator, is intended to "permanently end the imposed war" and bring a resolution to the ongoing tensions between the two countries.

According to the state broadcaster, Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), the remarks came in a gathering of foreign diplomats and ambassadors based in Tehran, where Gharibabadi emphasised Iran's preparedness for both diplomatic negotiations and any potential military aggression. "...In any case, Iran will always maintain its pessimism and distrust of America and its honesty in the path of diplomacy," Gharibabadi said.

His remarks come after Iran submitted its latest proposal aimed at advancing negotiations to end the ongoing conflict, in response to recent amendments introduced by the US to a draft plan aimed at ending the conflict. AGENCIES

Adam Back again denies he is Satoshi, Bitcoin's inventor

Adam Back has spent weeks being asked yet again, by various people, whether he is the inventor of Bitcoin. He is not, he says.

He has been saying so for years and again since the New York Times suggested in early April, after dissecting writings from the early cypherpunk era, that **Adam Back** was the most credible candidate yet for Satoshi Nakamoto, the pseudonymous figure who released Bitcoin's design paper in 2008 and disappeared in 2011.

A documentary released weeks later proposed two other candidates. Back has done what he usually does, which is to deny the attribution, explain why people keep making it, and return to work. "It's not me, for the record," he said in late April, in a polite tone. "It's very hard to prove a negative."

'Mystery around founder helped Bitcoin's growth'

The repetition does not seem to bother him. The mystery has been useful, he says. A Bitcoin without a known founder is a Bitcoin without a single point of capture, without a chief executive to subpoena, a founding team to coerce, a charismatic figure whose departure could destabilise the network. That, he believes, is part of why the asset has reached the position it now occupies.

"It helps Bitcoin be more understood as a digital commodity rather than shares in a startup," he told Bloomberg at the sidelines of the Bitcoin 2026 conference in Las Vegas. "Nobody has any particular strong influence."

Back is British, the holder of a doctorate in computer science and the chief executive of Blockstream, one of the oldest and best-capitalized infrastructure companies in the Bitcoin ecosystem. He is also one of the few known people whose work demonstrably influenced Bitcoin's design.

His 1997 paper on Hashcash — a proof-of-work algorithm intended to combat email spam — is cited in Satoshi's 2008 whitepaper. He was, by his own account, working on the problem of digital scarcity, more than a decade before Bitcoin's release.

'A sanguine transformation'

The asset is now held in regulated exchange-traded funds by the world's largest asset managers, packaged up by Nasdaq-listed firms gobbling up supply and debated on Wall Street as a candidate to hedge institutional portfolios.

His view of the transformation is sanguine, markedly so, given how far Bitcoin has travelled from the niche, ideological project he helped seed. The ETFs and corporate treasury vehicles that have accumulated hundreds of billions of dollars of Bitcoin are, Back said, "effectively custodians on behalf of other investors." Multiple custodians, regulatory oversight, the continued availability of self-custody for those who want it: the structure has, he says, "constraints and competitors" that prevent any single entity from capturing the network. BLOOMBERG

Crowd shrinks as new CEO leads annual meet at Berkshire Hathaway

Omaha: Berkshire Hathaway's new CEO **Greg Abel** opened the first annual meeting without Warren Buffett on stage Saturday. Abel was promoted to CEO in Jan. Thousands of people again attended the meeting, but the Omaha arena where the event is held was only a little over half full.

The meeting began with a video tribute to Buffett that was filled with clips from the previous 60 annual meetings for the conglomerate. Buffett surprised shareholders a year ago at the end of the meeting when he announced he would step down.

The folksy wisdom and jokes that were a staple of the Berkshire Hathaway annual meeting for decades when Warren Buffett was leading the show will be missing Saturday, but shareholders still started lining up at midnight outside a Nebraska arena to listen to new CEO Greg Abel.

Attendance is down significantly this year with the arena only about half full just before the meeting started. That's much different than the past few years when more than 40,000 attended to listen to the 95-year-old Buffett.

Before his death in 2023, Buffett's partner Charlie Munger was always part of the fun. Buffett gave up the CEO title in Jan, but he remains chairman and will be sitting with the rest of the Berkshire board on the floor to listen at the meeting.

Cash surges to $397 bn

Berkshire Hathaway's cash pile soared to its highest level ever and operating earnings jumped in Greg Abel's first quarter as CEO. After a slight decrease late last year, the firm's cash hoard jumped to $397 billion in the first quarter as it offloaded a net $8.1 billion of equity holdings in the period, the conglomerate said Saturday. AP

'Timmy' the stranded whale rescued, returned to N Sea

AFP

An aerial photo taken on Wednesday shows the rescued humpback whale in a special barge, after it beached on a sandbank off the German coast in late March; (left) Timmy blows air through its blowhole and swims off after being released into North Sea

Frankfurt: A humpback whale that had been struggling to survive after beaching near the German coast was released Saturday into the North Sea off Denmark, after being transported in a barge in a last-ditch rescue op.

The whale, dubbed "Timmy" in Germany — where its ordeal captured hearts and sparked a media frenzy — exited the barge, blew air through its blowhole and swam off, said Karin Walter-Mommert, one of the wealthy entrepreneurs who financed the rescue. It was now swimming on its own and, at least for the time being, in the right direction, she said.

The whale "has some small injuries, but they are superficial", said Walter-Mommert. It "should now swim up the Norwegian coast toward the Arctic", added the entrepreneur, who made her fortune in horse racing.

The whale was first spotted stuck on a sandbank on March 23 near the city of Luebeck, on Germany's Baltic Sea coast, before freeing itself and then becoming stuck again several times.

Various attempts to save it failed, and authorities had announced they were giving up — prompting Walter-Mommert and another wealthy entrepreneur to step in. They came up with what many saw as a long-shot plan: coax the whale into the water-filled hold of a special barge and tow it back to its natural habitat.

Some experts criticised the privately financed rescue plan, saying it would only cause the animal more distress. But the plan appeared to have succeeded against the odds, as the whale left the barge from Wismar Bay on the Baltic coast at around 8.45am, organisers said.

How Timmy was shifted

To get the whale onto the barge, rescuers had attached straps to it and heaved it down a channel that had been specially dug in the sand to allow it to reach the vessel. Rescuers then swam alongside it as it sped up and entered the barge — sparking cheers from the crowd watching from shore.

The barge idea was hatched after the entrepreneurs' initial attempt to save the whale with inflatable cushions and pontoons was unsuccessful.

Officials gave the green light for the rescue after veterinarians said the whale was fit to be transported.

The saga has drawn nonstop coverage from TV channels, online outlets and social media influencers — but has also led to angry spats and conspiracy theories about how the whale got off track in the first place. AFP

Chinese court rules firms can't lay off workers on AI grounds

A Chinese court ruled that companies cannot terminate employees just to replace them with artificial intelligence systems, as authorities juggle the need to stabilise the domestic labour market with a global race to develop AI technologies.

The court decided that a tech firm in eastern China had illegally fired one of its workers after he refused to take a demotion when his job was automated by AI, according to a statement by the Hangzhou Intermediate People's Court.

"The termination grounds cited by the company did not fall under negative circumstances such as business downsizing or operational difficulties, nor did they meet the legal condition that made it 'impossible to continue the employment contract,'" the court said in the article dated April 28.

Companies cannot unilaterally lay off employees or cut salaries due to technological progress, the court said in a separate statement, citing the same case.

Chinese firms are racing to implement AI systems as part of a state-directed push to dominate the tech. At the same time, planners in the Chinese Communist Party have indicated a willingness to prioritise stability in the labour market as the country reckons with a slowing economy and elevated youth unemployment. BLOOMBERG

Vintage Fiat 500s get electric makeover

In a workshop in Turin — the historic home of Italian carmaker Fiat — vintage 500 models are getting a makeover with electric engines. Classic Fiat 500s, made between 1957 and 1975, are being brought "into the 21st century", said Giovanni Gentile, owner of Officine Gentile.

Outside the workshop, rusty hulks of the tiny, curvy cars are lined up waiting their turn. Inside, sparks fly as workers cut and weld the metal. The cars then get re-painted, re-wired and the electric engines are installed.

The charging socket is hidden behind the vintage Fiat symbol at the front of the car. Many of the revamped cars are painted in pastel colours and some are convertibles. The retrofitted cars sell for 40,000-50,000 euros; convertibles for up to 80,000 euros.

The original Fiat 500 became a design icon and some 4.2 million models were made.

AFP

LA SECONDA DOLCE VITA: (Left) Giovanni Gentile sits at the wheel of retrofitted Fiat 500 Jolly Lido at his workshop in Turin, Italy; (above) the digital dashboard of the car

They are still popular with vintage car enthusiasts the world over and regularly attract large rallies around Italy and beyond.

The model was relaunched in 2007 with some modern tweaks and is now also sold electric. Giorgio Pagliero, sales director at Officine Gentile, said the workshop wanted to maintain "the legacy and historic nature" of the cars while giving them "a second life". AFP

AI actors, writers will be ineligible for Oscars

Los Angeles: Actors created with artificial intelligence will not be eligible for an Oscar, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Friday.

New rules include a requirement that only real, live human performers — not their AI avatars — are eligible for the film world's biggest prizes, and screenplays must have been penned by a person, rather than a chatbot.

"In the Acting category, only roles credited in the film's legal billing and demonstrably performed by humans with their consent will be considered eligible," the Academy said. "In the Writing categories, the rules codify that screenplays must be human-authored to be eligible."

New rules for non-English entry

Other updates to the Academy's rules include a change in the way that films can be nominated for best international feature. Until this year, only a film selected by an official national grouping could be entered — a problem for any critical movie made in an authoritarian state. Under the new rules, a non-English language film also can be submitted in the category if it wins a qualifying award at a major international film festival, including Cannes, Berlin, Busan, Venice or Toronto. AFP

DAILY PLANET

Roosters banned on US-Philippine route

Animal rights advocates were crowing on Saturday after Korean Air banned transporting roosters on flights from the United States to the Philippines, which has a huge cockfighting industry. Filipinos wager tens of millions of dollars daily by some industry estimates as they watch two roosters armed with metal spurs fight to the death in clashes that can end in less than a minute. The United States is an important source of roosters for these fights.

Audio-only book shop opens in New York

Audiobook giant Audible opened what it billed as the first "bookless bookstore" in New York on Friday as industry statistics show more American consumers embracing the format. There is no rustle of pages or stacks of best-selling novels at the pop-up store opened by the Amazon subsidiary on the Lower East Side in Manhattan. According to the Audio Publishers Association, audiobook sales reached $2.22 billion in the US in 2024, nearly doubling over past five years.

Illegal rave draws 20k to 'dangerous' military site

Around 20,000 partygoers gathered Saturday for an illegal rave at a military site in France, defying warnings about the risk of unexploded ordnance and possible blasts. The rave near the town of Bourges in central France kicked off on Friday and organisers expect as many as 30,000 people to arrive at the peak of the event this weekend.

"I DON'T THINK I NEED TO ANSWER ANY CRITICS OR ANYONE TALKING ABOUT IT (VAPING). BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, MY JOB IS TO GET TWO POINTS. SO, MY SCORE AND MY INNINGS DON'T MATTER IF WE LOSE. I THINK WE COULD HAVE BOWLED BETTER IN THE MIDDLE OVERS."
—Riyan Parag | RR Captain

Another MI meltdown

Gaikwad, CSK Bowlers Put Archrivals On Brink Of Elimination After Eight-Wicket Thrashing

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Chennai: Mumbai Indians' faltering IPL campaign hit its final stop at Chepauk on Saturday, as Chennai Super Kings registered a comfortable eight-wicket win to keep their own slim playoff hopes alive. The result nearly ends MI's chances of making the last four, allowing Jasprit Bumrah, carrying a heavy workload through the season, to finally turn his attention towards India commitments in the coming months.

The MA Chidambaram Stadium has rarely been a forgiving venue, more so for a side low on confidence. The surface, seemingly placid, tends to hold up just enough to create doubt, while a partisan sea of yellow often amplifies pressure. On this night, all those factors came together as CSK completed a commanding league double over their long-time rivals.

It was a result shaped decisively in the first half, where MI once again failed to capitalise on a solid start. At one stage, cruising past 100 in the 11th over with Suryakumar Yadav well set and Naman Dhir settling in, a score in excess of 180 looked certain. Instead, MI collapsed to 159-7, undone by disciplined bowling and familiar middle-order frailties.

The slide began with Suryakumar's dismissal, the batter failing to clear deep point off debutant pacer Ramakrishna Ghosh. From there, the innings unravelled quickly. Despite having Dhir (57 off 37 balls), Tilak Varma and Hardik Pandya in the middle, MI struggled to build momentum.

Left-arm wrist spinner Noor Ahmad continued his impressive run, finishing with 2-26. Bowling flatter but extracting enough grip and bounce, he forced errors from batters expected to handle spin better. Tilak fell attempting a cross-batted heave, while Noor had earlier removed Ryan Rickelton (37 off 24), who had given MI early impetus. Jamie Overton (1-23) complemented Noor perfectly, hitting hard lengths and using the two-paced nature of the pitch to stifle scoring. The England pacer's variations made it difficult for Dhir and Pandya to break free in the middle overs, where MI's innings lost all its tempo.

However, the standout performer was Anshul Kamboj. The medium-pacer, now a joint Purple Cap holder, delivered a clinical spell of 3-32. He struck early to remove Will Jacks with a delivery that shaped away, and returned at the death to shut the door completely. With accurate yorkers and well-directed short balls, he ensured there was no late flourish. Kamboj also accounted for Robin Minz and Hardik, as MI's innings fizzled out.

Chasing a modest 160, CSK never looked troubled. Captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, under scrutiny for his form, anchored the innings with a composed 67 not out off 48 balls. There was no urgency, only control, as he guided the chase with minimal risk.

He found useful support from Urvil Patel (24) and Kartik Sharma, who remained unbeaten on 54 off 40 balls.

HOLDING FORT: Ruturaj Gaikwad's 48-ball 67 steered CSK to victory

Sportzpics

SCOREBOARD

Mumbai Indians: Will Jacks c Ghosh b Kamboj 1, Ryan Rickelton c Patel b Ahmad 37, Naman Dhir c sub (Sarfaraz) b Overton 57, Suryakumar Yadav c Brevis b Ghosh 21, Tilak Varma c Gaikwad b Ahmad 5 Hardik Pandya c Brevis b Kamboj 18, Robin Minz b Kamboj 5, Krish Bhagat not out 3, Trent Boult not out 7
Extras: (B2, LB2, W1) **5**; **Total:** (For seven wickets in 20 overs) **159**; **FoW:** 1-1, 2-59, 3-99, 4-109, 5-134, 6-139, 7-151
Bowling: Mukesh Choudhary 3-0-25-0, Anshul Kamboj 4-0-32-3, Prashant Veer 2-0-25-0, Noor Ahmad 4-0-26-2, Ramakrishna Ghosh 3-0-24-1, Jamie Overton 4-0-23-1
Chennai Super Kings: Sanju Samson c Rickelton b Bumrah 11, Ruturaj Gaikwad not out 67, Urvil Patel b Ghazanfar 24, Kartik Sharma not out 54
Extras: (W4) **4**; **Total:** (For two wickets in 18.1 overs) **160**; **FoW:** 1-13, 2-62; **Bowling:** Trent Boult 3.1-0-37-0, Jasprit Bumrah 3-0-20-1, Krish Bhagat 2-0-22-0, AM Ghazanfar 4-0-40-1, Raghu Sharma 4-0-24-0, Hardik Pandya 2-0-17-0
Result: CSK won by eight wickets

67 Ruturaj Gaikwad's fourth fifty vs Mumbai Indians is his 24th score (two hundreds and 22 fifties) of 50+ in 79 innings for CSK in the IPL. Just one batter has managed more innings of 50+ for CSK—34 in 171 innings by Suresh Raina (one hundred and 33 fifties).

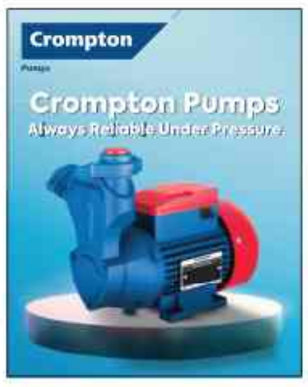
8 Chennai Super Kings' eight-wicket triumph is their biggest over Mumbai Indians in the IPL. Previously, the Men in Yellow had recorded seven-wicket wins over them on four occasions.

17 Anshul Kamboj, with 17 wickets at 15.82 runs apiece in nine matches, to join Bhuvneshwar Kumar as the highest wicket-taker. The RCB pacer has taken his wickets at 15.52 in as many matches.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
PBKS	8	6	1	1	1.043	13
RCB	9	6	3	0	1.420	12
SRH	9	6	3	0	0.832	12
RR	10	6	4	0	0.510	12
GT	9	5	4	0	-0.192	10
CSK	9	4	5	0	0.005	8
DC	9	4	5	0	-0.895	8
KKR	8	2	5	1	-0.751	5
MI	9	2	7	0	-0.803	4
LSG	8	2	6	0	-1.106	4



Jamieson given demerit point for Sooryavanshi send off

Jaipur: Delhi Capitals pacer Kyle Jamieson has been handed one demerit point for his fiery send-off to Rajasthan Royals' Vaibhav Sooryavanshi during their match on Friday. The Kiwi breached Article 2.5, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from another player in the match". PTI

TIME TO ASK APOLLO AI
RUSH HOUR
Dusk is rush hour for malaria. Its mosquitoes are 80% more active then.
Scan for daily hygiene
For any Health Query Chat with
Ask Apollo AI
Apollo AI Clinical excellence for healthier India
Powered by Apollo 24|7

Adapt and adjust, Lockie to bowlers as run-fests continue

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Mumbai: IPL 2026 will be chronicled as relentless runfests. Scores of 200 and even 220-plus are no longer exceptional; they are routinely chased down, prompting concerns that the balance has tilted heavily towards batters. Flat pitches, coupled with the Impact Player rule, have deepened batting line-ups to No. 8 or 9, leaving bowlers with shrinking margins for error.

Recent games underline the trend. Punjab Kings chased down a staggering 265 against Delhi Capitals in Delhi, while Sunrisers Hyderabad made light work of 244 against Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede. On surfaces offering little assistance, bowlers have been forced to rethink their approach.

Punjab Kings and New Zealand pacer Lockie Ferguson believes adapting, not complaining, is the way forward. "Coming into the tournament, you know it's going to be high-scoring. Curators are preparing fantastic wickets, and the batting talent in India keeps improving. Every year, new players emerge who can play all the shots," Ferguson said on Saturday. "As bowlers, we have to adjust our mindset. If 200 is par, the aim is to pull it back by 10-15 runs."

Earlier, Sunrisers Hyderabad spin-bowling coach Muttiah Muralitharan had stirred debate by suggesting that entertainment drives such batting-friendly conditions. "If you give fair wickets, spectators may get bored. T20 followers want entertainment. It's big business now. Bowlers will adapt," the Sri Lankan great had said.

Ferguson's own IPL journey this season has been unconventional. The 34-year-old chose to delay his arrival to spend time with his wife and newborn son, prioritising family over the early phase of the tournament. "There's always an opportunity cost, but I chose to be at home. I had an honest conversation with the management, and they were supportive. Family comes first, and I'm grateful for that," he said.

However, reintegrating into the world's toughest T20 league hasn't been smooth. In his lone appearance so far, Ferguson was taken apart by Rajasthan Royals' Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Yashasvi Jaiswal, conceding 57 runs in four wicketless overs. "It's not easy jumping straight from training into the IPL. It's a tough competition at the best of times, and even harder midway through," he admitted.

Cricmas

16 200-plus totals were chased in the first 15 seasons of the IPL.

34 200-plus targets have been overhauled since the 'Impact Sub' rule was introduced in 2023 with 11 coming this season.

DECISION ON IPL PLAYOFF VENUES IN 48 HOURS: SAIKIA

Mumbai: The venues for the IPL Playoffs will be finalised within the next couple of days, BCCI secretary Devjit Saikia said on Saturday, **reports Gaurav Gupta.**

Saikia, however, refused to confirm whether Mullanpur and Bengaluru, linked to last season's finalists, the Punjab Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, will host the knockout games. Last season, Due to Indo-Pak conflict, Mullanpur had staged Qualifier 1 and the Eliminator, while Ahmedabad hosted Qualifier 2 and the final, moving away from the original plan of Kolkata hosting the summit clash. For 2026, the BCCI has only confirmed May 31 as the final date.

He also indicated stricter action against teams breaching norms after recent controversies involving the Rajasthan Royals.

Focus on Iyer, Gill as playoff race tightens

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Ahmedabad: Among the more intriguing subplots in Indian cricket's white-ball landscape is the one involving Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer. India's ODI captain and vice-captain remain outside the current T20I core, even as both continue to produce influential runs in the IPL.

Iyer, in particular, has married tempo with control for Punjab Kings (PBKS), allowing the more explosive hitters around him to dictate the pace. Gill has been consistent too, but the question around him in the shortest format remains whether he can match the ball-striking of India's newer T20 options.

GILL

IYER

The Gill-Iyer narrative will be renewed on Sunday when Gujarat Titans (GT) meet PBKS in a contest shaped by two contrasting approaches. GT, buoyed by back-to-back wins over Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, will be chasing a third straight victory. PBKS, meanwhile, remain top of the table with 13 points from eight matches, but their first defeat of the season—a six-wicket loss to Rajasthan Royals after posting 222/4—has exposed their bowling.

Under head coach Ricky Ponting and captain Iyer, Punjab have embraced an aggressive batting template. Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh have repeatedly given them fast starts, while Cooper Connolly has settled neatly at No. 3. Marcus Stoinis, Nehal Wadhera and the rest of the middle order have ensured the tempo rarely drops.

Assistant bowling coach Trevor Gonsalves credited Iyer for setting the tone. "He is leading from the front and he is backing every player. He is playing a marvellous role and is showing the path in the middle-order, where he is being fearless," Gonsalves said.

That fearlessness will be tested by a GT attack that has rediscovered bite. Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj gave GT early control against CSK, while Arshad Khan, Rashid Khan and Jason Holder combined superbly to bowl out RCB for 155. Holder's all-round impact in that four-wicket win has strengthened GT's balance.

SRH look to keep winning against beleaguered KKR

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Hyderabad: The need to standout was never more apparent than in the Sunrisers Hyderabad camp this IPL season.

The traditional slow starters have quickly turned things around to make winning a habit—they have racked up five consecutive wins—ever since they stopped the marauding Rajasthan Royals in their tracks with little-known names like Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain putting their hand up.

That the last two of those wins came on the road chasing down 200-plus totals should add to the confidence of a side functioning like a well-oiled machine when they take on Kolkata Knight Riders at home in oppressively hot conditions on Sunday afternoon.

The engine room is on cruise mode with Abhishek Sharma (425 runs), Heinrich Klaasen (414)—second and third in the batting chart—and Ishan Kishan (312) buzzing. That the flame-haired South African's strike rate of 157.41 is less than Abhishek's 209.35 is due to the salvage acts he essayed in a few games. But when push comes to shove, there is no doubting Klaasen's prowess to pulverise attacks like Mumbai Indians found to their chagrin during his 30-ball unbeaten 65 that piloted the chase.

Like Klaasen with the willow, Ehsan Malinga has been a constant in SRH's success with the ball and the attack's ability to hold its own till Pat Cummins returned against Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur.

The Sri Lankan has been the go-to bowler for his captains Kishan and Cummins in the last two matches—and the variety in his armoury, which fetched him 15 wickets in nine matches is one of the reasons Sunrisers are third in the table with 12 points.

On the other hand, nothing seems to have gone right for the Knight Riders.

Barring the point from the abandoned match against Punjab Kings, the Knights had very little to show from their first six outings but wins over Rajasthan Royals and Lucknow Super Giants in a Super over in the last two put them at No. 8 in the standings. Varun Chakravarthy and Rinku Singh were impressive in those two wins, and the Knights, who are weighing their options on giving Matheesha Pathirana a much-anticipated debut, hope the rest strike form to revive what now looks a difficult campaign.

TODAY'S FACE-OFF
SRH vs KKR
TV TIME: 3.30 PM
STAR SPORTS
JIOHOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD

SRH	KKR
11	20

LAST FIVE MATCHES
SRH W W W W W
KKR W W L L L

VENUE: HYDERABAD
WEATHER 39°C

ODDS	
SRH	KKR
8/10	11/10

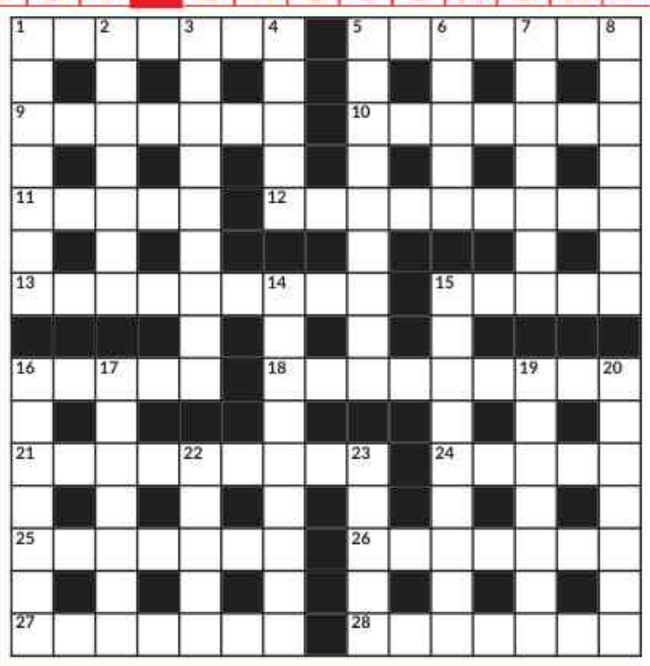
NUMBERS GAME

3 Three tons have been recorded for SRH vs KKR—126 by Warner at Hyd on April 30, 2017, 105* by Klaasen at Delhi on May 25, 2025 and 100* by Brook at Eden Gardens on April 14, 2023.

THE TOI CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD No. TCC#0270

The **TOI Crossword contest** is on a short break, but the crossword itself will continue to be featured in The Sunday Times of India, so that you can continue to relish the challenge every week. **Stay tuned!**



The Times of India CROSSWORD EVERY SUNDAY

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across
1 Perhaps he's right to gamble and drink (7)
5 Main fighting area for a pilot (7)
9 Gather that the boxer is slightly in the lead? (5,2)
10 Called for as arranged (7)
11 Put down a pound stake (5)
12 See Carol's recipe for a cooked dish (9)
13 What harsh judges do to make greater effort (3,6)
15 We set about the final course (5)
16 Police chase ends in the wood (5)
18 It's immoral to make money on a game (9)
21 Hope's fled for the pound (9)
24 West country lady? (5)
25 Introduces gradually in new lists (7)
26 A gentle eccentric - so refined (7)
27 Remarkably one lady is on time (2,5)
28 Compensates with cosmetics? (5,2)

Down
1 He waits for a job (7)
2 Uniformly gusty with change of direction (7)
3 Dead balmy perhaps and poorly turned out (5,4)
4 Subject of a Canaletto picture (5)
5 Mated after upset and produced a hybrid (9)
6 Nuclear force? (5)
7 Will find postal order in one's wallet (7)
8 I'd set it out in the neatest form (7)
14 Builds you a structure in an imprecise way (9)
15 In the main it's a disaster (9)
16 When marked down it's not cheap (7)
17 Forced into service when one was short of time (7)
19 They may have nights on the tiles (7)
20 Without brakes? Without breaks (7)
22 A number after a new hip flask (5)
23 Vision of the armed revolutionary (5)

QUICK CLUES

Across
1 Flowers on fruit trees (7) 5 To praise (7) 9 Not precisely true (7) 10 Act as go-between (7) 11 Male duck (5) 12 Unassailable (4-5) 13 To grimace (4,1,4) 15 Country of northeast Africa (5) 16 Clever expedient (5) 18 To a sickening extent (2,7) 21 Beset by conflict (9) 24 African spiral-horned antelope (5) 25 Sporting firearm (7) 26 To shock and anger (7) 27 Aloofness (7) 28 Generosity (7)

Down
1 Gradual accumulation (5-2) 2 From end to end (7) 3 Deadlock (9) 4 Measuring instrument (5) 5 Confess everything (4,5) 6 King with golden touch (5) 7 Made possible (7) 8 A fine German china (7) 14 Immediately on looking (2,1,6) 15 A seaman's waterproof hat (9) 16 Type of sideboard with shelves (7) 17 Of questionable truth (7) 19 Originate (7) 20 Utter folly (7) 22 Fierce Asian wildcat (5) 23 Quaintly amusing (5)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC

P	A	L	T	R	Y	■	E	N	C	R	O	A	C	H
A	■	A	■	A	■	■	■	A	■	E	■	G	■	O
R	E	M	O	T	E	■	M	I	N	S	T	R	E	L
S	■	P	■	T	■	A	■	L	■	E	■	E	■	S
L	I	S	T	L	E	S	S	■	A	R	R	E	S	T
E	■	H	■	E	■	I	■	B	■	V	■	■	■	E
Y	E	A	H	■	P	A	C	E	S	E	T	T	E	R
■	■	■	D	■	D	■	T	■	M	■	D	■	O	■	■
P	R	E	C	A	R	I	O	U	S	■	P	L	U	G
O	■	■	■	F	■	C	■	S	■	A	■	E	■	E
T	H	R	I	F	T	■	D	E	N	T	U	R	E	S
S	■	E	■	O	■	K	■	D	■	H	■	A	■	S
H	O	A	R	D	I	N	G	■	K	E	R	N	E	L
O	■	L	■	I	■	O	■	■	■	N	■	C	■	E
T	E	M	P	L	A	T	E	■	V	E	N	E	E	R

QUICK

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Nandani earns maiden India call-up for T20 WC

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Mumbai: In a significant boost to her burgeoning career, Delhi Capitals pacer Nandani Sharma has earned her maiden India call-up for the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup in England, with the BCCI naming a 15-member squad on Saturday. The 24-year-old has also been picked for the historic one-off Test at Lord's from July 10, immediately after the tournament.

The uncapped Chandigarh seamer forced her way into contention with a standout debut WPL season, finishing as joint-highest wicket-taker with 17 scalps in 10 games for runners-up Delhi Capitals. Her campaign, highlighted by a hat-trick in just her second match, marked her out as one of the season's breakout stars.

The squad also sees the return of wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia and left-arm spinner Radha Yadav, while Anushka Sharma and Uma Chetry miss out. Injuries ruled out promising allrounders Amanjot Kaur (back) and Kashvee Gautam (knee), opening the door for Radha's recall and strengthening India's spin depth alongside Deepti Sharma, Shreyanka Patil and Shree Charani.

Explaining the omissions, chief selector Amita Sharma said Kashvee would undergo surgery, while captain Harmanpreet Kaur confirmed Amanjot could be sidelined for up to five months.

Cricmas

Yastika, returning after an ACL surgery that ruled her out of the 2025 ODI World Cup, last played a T20I in April 2024. Her comeback adds experience to the lower-middle order and wicketkeeping group led by Richa Ghosh.

Radha, who has featured in 89 T20Is and taken 103 wickets, returns in time for her fifth T20 World Cup, bringing experience and control to India's bowling attack.

India will open their campaign against Pakistan on June 14 in Birmingham and are placed in a challenging Group A alongside Australia, South Africa, Bangladesh and the Netherlands. The squad will assemble for a pre-tournament camp at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence from May 10 before heading to England for a three-match T20I series, which will serve as preparation.

Harmanpreet, set to feature in her 10th T20 World Cup and lead India for the fifth time, will be aiming to end India's wait for a maiden T20 World Cup title after their 50-over World Cup triumph.

T20 World Cup squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (wk), Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Thakur, Kranti Gaud, Shree Charani, Shreyanka Patil, Bharti Fulmali, Yastika Bhatia, Nandni Sharma, Radha Yadav

Squad for one-off Test: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Shafali Varma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Pratika Rawal, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (wk), Shree Charani, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Nandini Sharma, Harleen Deol, Renuka Thakur, Kranti Gaud, Sayali Satghare, Sneh Rana.

SNAP SHOTS

India lose to Australia

India went down fighting 0-2 against Australia in their opening group match of the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup football tournament in Suzhou, China on Saturday. India face four-time champions Japan on May 5 before taking on Lebanon on May 8.
Result: Group B: India 0 lost to Australia 2 (Theodora Mouithys 25, Abhista Basnett 59-og)

Iran officials aim to meet with FIFA: Football officials from Iran are intent on meeting with FIFA's leadership about its upcoming World Cup matches in the United States. Mehdi Taj, president of Iran's football administration, informed Iranian media that the country's football leadership has issues it wants to discuss with the FIFA. The meeting is expected to happen before May 20 at the FIFA headquarters, the AP reported.

Carvajal suffers toe fracture: Real Madrid defender Dani Carvajal will miss the Clasico on May 10 after suffering a toe fracture, his club said on Saturday. The veteran right-back is set to miss the next two weeks according to Spanish media and could return for the club's final game of the season against Athletic Bilbao.

Sandhu in top-10: Yuvraj Sandhu played a steady round of 1-under 71 and was inside top-10 at the halfway stage of the Turkish Open in Belek, Turkiye. Also making the cut was Shubhankar Sharma. He shot 3-over 75 and was now 1-over and tied-57th.

We hear Indian athletes running away when there's doping control, says ITA: The head of the International Testing Agency Benjamin Cohen has expressed concern at the high rate of doping cases in India and athletes getting "advance notice prior to testing" and avoiding furnishing samples if there is doping control.

Former F1 driver Zanardi no more: Former Formula One driver Alex Zanardi, who lost both legs in a racing crash and went on to win Paralympic gold medals, died at the age of 59, his family said on Saturday. Zanardi, from Bologna, made his F1 debut in 1991 and later won back-to-back titles in the CART series in the USA in 1997 and 1998. His life took a dramatic turn in Sept 2001 when he was involved in a high-speed crash that led to the amputation of both legs. Zanardi then turned to para-cycling, becoming one of Italy's most successful Paralympic athletes.

Lakers romp past Rockets: LeBron James scored 18 of his 28 points in a runaway first half for the visiting Los Angeles Lakers, who cruised to a 98-78 victory over the Houston Rockets and claimed their Western Conference first-round playoff series in six games.
Results: Detroit 93 bt Orlando 79; Toronto 112 bt Cleveland 110 (OT); LA Lakers 98 bt Houston 78.

NZ win rain-hit T20: Bevon Jacobs struck an unbeaten 62 to guide New Zealand to a six-wicket win over Bangladesh in a rain-hit third T20 international on Saturday, with the series ending 1-1. Chasing 103 in a revised 15-over contest, New Zealand slipped to 33-4 before Jacobs and Dean Foxcroft put on an unbeaten stand of 71 to reach the target in 11.4 overs in Dhaka. Bangladesh won the opener before the second match was rained off.
Brief scores: Bangladesh: 102 in 14.2 overs (Hridoy 33, Litton 26; Clarkson 3-9) lost to **New Zealand (Target 103 runs from 15 overs): 104/4 in 11.4 overs** (Jacobs 62; Shoriful 3-19).

Jensi loses in semis: Jensi Kanabar's run at the ITF women's $15,000 event in New Delhi came to an end with a 4-6, 0-6 loss to Shruti Ahlawat in the semifinal. TNN

France knock out India

Injured Lakshya Misses SFs, Ayush And Srikanth Suffer Big Defeats

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France are on a roll at the Thomas Cup. After knocking out 14-time champions Indonesia in the group stage, France drubbed 2022 champions India 3-0 by winning all three singles.

Christo Popov drubbed Ayush Shetty 21-11, 21-9 to give France an early lead. Alex Lanier also registered a straight-game victory, defeating Kidambi Srikanth 21-18, 21-16 to make it 2-0 for France. In a do-or-die contest for India, HS Prannoy began well before losing steam against Toma Junior Popov and lost 19-21, 16-21.

In the other semifinal, China won their first two matches against Denmark.

Popov was at his dominant best against Ayush throughout the 39-minute contest. The reigning World Tour Finals champion dominated the net and targeted the backhand corner of Ayush with repeated smashes and controlled the pace of the game.

Ayush, who turns 21 on Sunday, admitted that Christo was too good. "I am disappointed with my performance today. Christo was solid today...He pace was high and he put a lot of pressure on me," Ayush said. "He was using a lot of deception. It caught me off guard. I was not stable on the court..He just outclassed me today," Ayush added.

India suffered a blow much before the contest started as Lakshya Sen was ruled out of the semifinal due to a swollen right elbow, which he injured while diving in the three-game quarterfinals on Friday.

"Lakshya sustained an impact to his elbow following an intense quarterfinal match that involved multiple dives. Following a thorough evaluation by the team's medical staff, the decision has been taken as a precautionary measure to allow Lakshya adequate recovery time and ensure he is in optimal condition for the final, should India progress," said BAI general secretary Sanjay Mishra in a statement.

TOUGH DAY: Kidambi Srikanth lost to Alex Lanier 18-21, 16-21

THOMAS CUP

Korea to face China in Uber final

Meanwhile, South Korea will face China in the Uber Cup finals. In the semifinals, South Korea defeated Indonesia 3-1 and China blanked Japan 3-0.

In darkness, big blitz win for eight-yr-old

Sivakasi's Tamizh Stuns World No. 7 During Power Cut

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BURNING BRIGHT: Tamizh Amudhan during his game against Keymer on Friday

Chennai: Rain lashed Thiruthangal, a neighbourhood in Sivakasi, all of Friday night. The power had been cut since six in the evening, plunging the area in darkness. But inside one of the modest houses, an eight-year-old boy, with just a candle flickering beside him and a mobile torch lighting up his laptop screen, was logged in to the Freestyle Friday online chess championship.

At the other end of Tamizh Amudhan's resolve, in all the ambient lighting that the first world brings, was World No. 7 Vincent Keymer, with an ELO rating of 2759.

Balancing the laptop on his lap, playing with black, Tamizh stunned the 21-year-old German in the opening round of Freestyle Friday, a popular weekly 11-round Swiss-format blitz event featuring several titled players. Tamizh managed to play four more rounds, winning two, before his laptop battery finally sputtered away.

World No. 1 in the under-9 category, Tamizh hails from Kallakurichi. For the past year, he has been living in a rented house in Thiruthangal to avoid long travel and train regularly at the Hatsun Chess Academy, located in the temple cum industrial town.

Speaking to **TOI**, Tamizh's father Sathish Arumugam explained how they improvised in the dark and used their phone's hotspot and mobile data to stay online.

"We returned from Hatsun Academy around 6 pm, when the power cut happened due to heavy rain. The tournament was at 8 pm, and there was only around 48% charge left on the laptop. So, we knew he could manage three or four games," Sathish said.

Carlsen bounces back to beat Grandelius

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Magnus Carlsen underlined his superior endgame skills to floor home GM Nils Grandelius with black pieces in the second round of TePe Sigeman & Co chess tournament in Malmo on Saturday.

Fifteen-year-old American GM Andy Woodward had also defeated Grandelius in the opening round.

At the time of going to press, the other three games — Yagiz Kaan vs Erigiaisi Arjun, Nodribek Abdusattorov vs Woodward and Jorden van Foreest vs Zhu Jiner — had not ended. Zhu had lost badly to Abdusattorov in the opening round but had somewhat recovered her position against Van Foreest the next day.

India's Arjun had held Carlsen to a draw in the opening round on Friday.

The eight-player seven-round closed event in Sweden is getting some attention as Carlsen, 35, is making his return in the over-the-board classical chess. The Norwegian world No. 1 is using the event as a warmup before the elite six-player 10-round event in Oslo which starts on May 25.

Zhu Jiner, who committed to play in Malmo in the first week of March, would not have imagined that she would lose the opening round in such poor fashion to Abdusatttorov of Uzbekistan on Friday.

The world No. 336 Chinese, the lone woman player in the event, made a dubious knight move, allowed the rival rook to threaten her queen and soon her position crumbled.

1ST CHALLENGER FINAL SPOT FOR MANAS DHAMNE

India's Manas Dhamne powered into his first Challenger final, an ATP 50 event in Shymkent, Kazakhstan on Saturday. The 18-year-old Indian scored a 6-4, 6-3 win over the sixth-seeded Frenchman Antoine Ghibaudo.

Dhamne came through the semifinal clash against the 21-year-old, ranked 325, in 82 minutes and didn't drop serve in the match. In the final on Sunday, he takes on Belgium's Buvaysar Gadamauri, the world No.320.

"It was raining so we had to wait a while before the match," Dhamne said. "The conditions were really heavy. It was not easy to play and was completely different from the conditions on other days. I was happy to adapt and find a way to win." TNN

Kuldeep breaks natl pole vault record

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Kolkata: In January this year, pole-vaulter Kuldeep Kumar and teammate Dev Kumar Meena were removed from their train and briefly detained at Maharashtra's Panvel railway station after ticket examiners objected to them carrying their poles inside the coach, referring to the equipment as "steel pipes".

On Saturday, Kuldeep had a fitting reply when he broke the national record by clearing 5.41m at the inaugural Indian Indoor Open Combined Events and Pole Vault Competition in Bhubaneswar.

Representing Madhya Pradesh, Kuldeep bettered the previous national mark of 5.40m, set by Meena at the World University Games last year.

"Not many people know about pole vault in this country, but I'm happy that our performances will help take the sport forward," the 21-year-old, a resident of Prayagraj, said afterwards. Kuldeep's feat also took him past Reegan Ganesh's indoor best of 5.30m, achieved during the maiden national indoor athletics championships held in Bhubaneswar in March. On Saturday, the Tamil Nadu vaulter finished second with a jump of 5.25m, while Meena endured a subdued outing for a third-place finish with a best of 5.20m.

"Dev faced a minor setback today, but both of us are now looking forward to doing even better at Federation Cup and qualifying for major events in the coming months," added Kuldeep.

Pival Bhattacharjee

Punjab FC and Sporting Club Delhi players during their match in Delhi on Saturday. The match ended in a goalless draw

NEUFC BEAT INTER KASHI TO HALT WINLESS RUN

Following a one-and-a-half-month winless run — marked by four home defeats and an away draw — NorthEast United FC finally returned to winning ways with a 3-2 victory over 10-man Inter Kashi at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on Saturday, reports **Sourav Modak**. Jithin MS and Andy Rodriguez put the hosts in control before Inter Kashi fought back through Sergio Llamas and Mohammed Asif to level the scores. Parthib Gogoi's strike in the 90th minute sealed all three points for the Highlanders.

Indian quartets fail to make it to final rd

Gaborone (Botswana): All the five Indian quartets failed to make it to the respective final rounds and thus missed out on the 2027 World Championships berths on the opening day of the World Athletics Relays here on Saturday.

They will still compete on the second day of the event on Sunday in an additional round for four slots for the 2027 World Athletics Championships. The men's 4x400m team of Dharmveer Choudhary, Rajesh Ramesh, Vishal TK and Manu TS, produced a creditable performance, finishing fourth in heat number three with a time of 3 minute 00.32 seconds.

WORLD RELAYS

The Second leg runner Rajesh was briefly in the clear lead, while the national 400m record holder Vishal, who ran the third leg, was also neck-and-neck in the leading pack. But the quartermilers finished fourth, behind Belgium (2:59.83), Qatar (2:59.83) and Spain (3:00.26) in heat number three and 12th overall.

The top two teams in each of the three heats and the next two quickest advance to the finals on day two, while also securing their qualification for the 2027 World Athletics Championships. The remaining teams get another chance for 2027 Beijing World Championships qualification on Day 2 in an additional round where the top two teams in each of the two heats will make the cut.

The first to take the field was the mixed 4x100m team of S Tamilarasu, Nithya Gandhe, Animesh Kujur and SS Sneha in heat number two. But the quartet failed to finish the race (DNF) as the baton slipped out of Kujur's hands after it was handed over to him by second leg runner Nithya Gandhe.

Then, the mixed 4x400m team of Theerthesh P Shetty, Ansa Babu, Amoj Jacob and Rashdeep Kaur finished sixth in heat number one with a time of 3 minute and 16 seconds.

The women's 4x100m team of Tamanna, Nithya Gandhe, Sudeshna Shivankar and Sneha SS did a little better, finishing fifth in heat number one with a time of 43.97 seconds.

Disappointment for India continued with the men's 4x100m team of Harsh Santosh Raut, Ragul Kumar, Animesh Kujur and Gurindervir Singh ending at the eighth and the last spot in heat number three with a time of 39.07s. PTI

Villarreal secure CL qualification

Villarreal guaranteed themselves a Champions League qualification spot with a 5-1 romp over Levante in La Liga on Saturday. Diego Simeone rotated his whole team with the Champions League in mind as Atletico Madrid defeated Valencia 2-0 at Mestalla. Marcelino's Villarreal, third, moved 18 points clear of fifth-place Real Betis, who have five games left to play.

FOOTBALL

Georges Mikautadze struck twice in the Yellow Submarine's derby victory, with Alberto Moleiro, Tajon Buchanan and Nicolas Pepe also on target. Carlos Espi netted for Levante.

Villarreal are five points clear of fourth-place Atletico, who won at Valencia despite Simeone rotating all 11 players from the Champions League semifinal first leg 1-1 draw against Arsenal.

AFP

JUBILANT: Villarreal celebrate a goal against Levante

NEWCASTLE END LOSING RUN

There was relief for Newcastle United manager Eddie Howe in a week in which he met chairman Yasir Al-Rumayyan to discuss the club's future plans as they defeated Brighton & Hove Albion 3-1 in the Premier League at St James' Park.

BAYERN HELD

A heavily-rotated Bayern Munich were held to a 3-3 draw at home by last-placed Heidenheim, days out from their return Champions League semifinal against Paris Saint-Germain.

Select results: Spanish league: Villarreal 5 (Mikautadze 38, 68, Moleiro 62, Buchanan 87, Pepe 90) bt Levante 1 (Espi 51); Valencia 0 lost to Atletico Madrid 2 (Luque 74, Cubo 82). **German league:** Bayern Munich 3 (Goretzka 44, 57, Olise 90+10) drew with Heidenheim 3 (Zivzivadze 22, 76, Dinkci 31). **EPL:** Newcastle 3 (Osula 12, Burn 24, Barnes 90+5) bt Brighton 1 (Hinshelwood 61); Brentford 3 (Mavropanos 15-og, Thiago 54-pen, Damsgaard 82) bt West Ham 0; Wolves 1 (Bueno 54) drew with Sunderland 1 (Mukiele 17). AGENCIES

Kostyuk claims first Madrid Open title

Marta Kostyuk defeated Mirra Andreeva 6-3, 7-5 to win the Madrid Open for the first time on Saturday. It was world number 23 Kostyuk's first trophy at WTA 1000 level and her second title of the season. She became only the second player outside of the top 20 to win the Madrid Open, in her third final of an impressive 2026 thus far. "It feels unbelievable to stand here right now," said Kostyuk, holding the trophy.

TENNIS

"It took me many years to reach this point and the one word I think about right now is consistency -- showing up every day no matter how hard it is, no matter how much you love or hate what you do. I've been doing that really well (over) the past years I think, so I'm very proud of myself and my team."

Kostyuk won when she met Andreeva in Brisbane earlier this year in their only prior meeting, and both have since enjoyed stellar starts to the clay-court swing. AFP

Prokofiev fancied

Bengaluru: The Prasanna Kumar-trained Prokofiev, ridden by Neeraj Rawal, holds the edge for the Ranquelino Cup, the main event to be run over a distance of seven furlongs on the second day of the summer season here on Sunday. The first race starts at 3 pm.
Selections: 1. The Royal Command Plate (Div II) 1400M: Blue Storm 1, Shock And Awe 2. **2. The Belmont Park Plate (Div II) 1200M:** Mnemosyne 1, Night Raider 2. **3. The Royal Command Plate (Div I) 1400M:** Kazing 1, Fils De France 2. **4. The Belmont Park Plate (Div I) 1200M:** Jade Mountain 1, Ilia 2. **5. The Ranquelino Cup 1400M:** Prokofiev 1, Rieko 2. **6. The Welcome Plate 1200M:** Bulletproof 1, Osaka 2. **7. The Squanderer Plate 1200M:** Money Bags 1, See The Light 2. **Day's best:** Bulletproof. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **Mini Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6 & 7. **First Treble:** 2, 3 & 4. **Second Treble:** 5, 6, & 7. TNN

AFP

ON TOP: Sprint winner Lando Norris (centre) with Oscar Piastri (left) and Charles Leclerc

CHAMPION NORRIS LEADS PIASTRI HOME

World champion Lando Norris won Saturday's sprint race at the Miami Grand Prix, leading home team-mate Oscar Piastri in a convincing 1-2 triumph that confirmed McLaren were back in top form. The 26-year-old Briton finished the 19-lap race at Miami International Autodrome 3.766 seconds clear of Piastri with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finishing third ahead of George Russell of Mercedes and four-time champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull. Championship-leading Italian teenager Kimi Antonelli, the youngest man to lead the title race in F1 history, finished sixth after being given a five-second penalty that cost him a place for exceeding track limits excessively. Seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton was seventh for Ferrari ahead of Alpine's Pierre Gasly, who took the final single point in eighth. It was Norris's fourth sprint win and McLaren's second consecutive 1-2 in Miami, a triumph that team chief Andrea Stella dedicated to the memory of former F1 driver Alex Zanardi. The win also marked the first race this year not won by Mercedes. AFP

MIAMI GP

Vultures ease to victory

Bengaluru: Vultures Cricket Club scored a 57-run win over Coles CC in the quarterfinals of the KSCA G Kasturirangan Memorial T20 tournament here on Saturday. Put in to bat, it was the brilliance of Karthikeya KP, who hit 36-ball 55 (4x4, 3x6) and an unbeaten 33 (17b, 6x4) from Kruthik Krishna, which powered Vultures to 198/5 in 20 overs.

KSCA TOURNEY

Vultures bowlers started on the front foot with Santokh Singh (3-28) removing BR Sharath in the first over. Coles were in all sorts of trouble at 64/6 in 6.3 overs with Adithya Nair (3-6) also excelling. Coles were eventually bundled out for 141 in 15.4 overs as Vultures eased into the semifinal.

Brief scores (quarterfinals): Vultures CC: 198/5 in 20 overs (Nischal D 34, Karthikeya KP 55, Kruthik Krishna 33 n.o; Arbind Rai 2-31, Goutham Mishra 2-39) bt **Coles CC: 141 in 15.4 overs** (Chethana LR 34, Mayank Agarwal 40, Aditya Goyal 28; Santokh Singh 3-28, Adithya Nair 3-6, Karthikeya 2-17). **Bangalore Occasionals: 141 in 19.3 overs** (Faizan Khan 48; Vidwath Kaverappa 3-21, Monish Reddy 2-23, Kumar LR 2-34, Manoj Bhandage 2-29) bt **Sir Syed Cricketers: 136/6 in 20 overs** (Nikin Jose 48 n.o, Bhandage 31; Dushyanth Venkat 2-25, Kranthi Kumar 4-13). **Jawans CC: 162/6 in 20 overs** (Harshil 36, Dheeraj Gowda 67, Arsalaan M 26; Nischith Rao 2-33) lost to **Swastic Union CC (1): 166/4 in 16.2 overs** (Prakhar Chaturvedi 26, Nitish Arya 59, Rakshith S 48 n.o; Keshav Manjunath 3-25). **Century Cricketers: 160/9 in 20 overs** (Karthik CA 25, Gagan Rao 30; Yashovardhan Parantap 3-21, Virender 2-43, Samit Dravid 3-33) lost to **Vijaya CC: 164/6 in 19.3 overs** (Aadharsh SJ 53, Dhruv Krishnan 30, Dhruv P 32; Karthik 2-28, Madhav Bajaj 3-20). TNN

B'lore SC record big win against Cavaliers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Bangalore Sports Club registered a 471-run win over Cavaliers Cricket Club in the KSCA U-16 inter-club tournament here recently.

Opting to bat, Bangalore SC rode on Pavandeep Bharadakane (242, 101b, 44x4) and Viaan Joshi's explosive knocks to post a mammoth total of 545 all out in 49.3 overs. Opener Viaan (141, 79b, 20x4, 3x6) and Pavandeep laid the foundation for a strong total with a second-wicket partnership of 132 off 70 deliveries. Saurjyesh Das' (63) late flourish helped Bangalore post a huge total. In reply, Cavaliers folded up for 74 in 35.4 overs as Saurjyesh led the attack with a four-wicket haul.

Meanwhile, in another match, Cheran Raju (118 n.o. & 5/31) stole the limelight with an all-round show to help Jawahar SC (1) to a narrow one-wicket win over Neptune.

Brief scores: Bangalore SC: 545 in 49.3 overs (Viaan Joshi 141, Pavandeep Bharadakane 242, Vineet Patil 44, Saurjyesh Das 63; Nishal Aradhya 2-72, Abhay Chavan 3-114, Neil Bhandary 2-89) bt **Cavaliers CC: 74 in 35.4 overs** (Saurjyesh 4-7).
Neptune CC: 226 in 42.3 overs (Srinath Seshadri 49, Srijesh Parthiban 104 (88b; 19x4); Bhavin Francis 2-42, Mayank Sharma 2-28, Cheran Raju 5-31) lost to **Jawahar SC (1): 228/9 in 49.5 overs** (Cheran 118 n.o (121b; 14x4; 2x6); Ravi Yadav 2-45, Sandeep Yadav B 4-23).
Bangalore Occasionals: 110 in 43.3 overs (Aarav Bajaj 2-20, Naksh CM 2-14, SM Bhavith 2-12) lost to **Bangalore United CC (1): 111/3 in 12 overs** (Lakshmi Narayan 34, Bhavith 31; Rithvikh Krishna 2-25).
RV Engg College: 104 in 34 overs (Lithik Reddy 38 n.o; Raghav Vadher 3-27, Jeevan 2-22, Kushal KA 2-11, M Neeraj 2-11) lost to **Rajajinagar Cricketers: 108/2 in 13.4 overs** (Prabhav Pydah 29 n.o, Debraj Nandi 46; Tupakula Vikranth 2-16).
Hammonds CC: 235/8 in 50 overs (Vasisht Shetty 33, Aryaman Goel 49, Preetham HG 33, Lalithesh R 43 n.o; Soumith Kongara 2-28, Md Aasiph 2-42) lost to **Jayanagar United Cricketers: 239/7 in 41.2 overs** (Shoubhit Pani 48, Sudarshan Thapa 31, Ayan Mukherjee 25, Samarth Rayabagi 60 n.o; Ansh Anand 3-59, S Miteesh 2-36).
Minerva CC: 177 in 40.2 overs (Aarav Mishra 46, Soumyarup Mukherjee 55; Samrat Aditya 2-28, Niyanta Kulkarni 3-34) lost to **Swastic Union CC (1): 178/6 in 40.4 overs** (Saachin Araganji 59 n.o, Aadyot Pandey 34; Krishang Gupta 2-40, Ankit Shaw 2-45).
The Bangalore Cricketers: 272 in 37.2 overs (Dherein V 80, Vedanth K 29, Ishaanth Y 35; Gagan Gowda 5-58, Rohith R 2-35) bt **Merchants CC (1): 65 in 28.4 overs** (Karthik J 5-18, Ayup Kunwar 2-12, Aryaman Srivastava 3-12).
Bharath CC (U-16): 102 in 37.4 overs (Samrudh Girish 2-31, Yashkumar Nishad 6-21) lost to **Cambridge CC: 104 for no loss in 21.1 overs** (Sathwik Rao 47 n.o, Daiwik M 46 n.o).
South End SC: 315/4 in 50 overs (Yelavalli Ahil 55, Vihaan P 64, Arya Naveen 38, Dhavan Srijan 54, Harshith Raja 40 n.o, Jagrit Karani 28 n.o) bt **Young Cricketers (1): 282 in 48 overs** (Vyom Ranjith 25, Karan Kumar 46, Namik Mannan 36, Saideep S 59; Nehan Shariff 2-26, Mohammed Sayed 2-22, Harshith 2-39).
Vultures CC: 297 in 47.1 overs (Anirudh Bangera 128 (113b; 21x4), Aaryan Nagesh 42, Manish Bahuguna 52, Arjun Balu 29 n.o; Atharva Jaiswal 2-78, Dikshan Bhandarkar 3-35, Rajdeep Banerjee 2-54) bt **Johnson CC: 91 in 21 overs** (Divyam Kumawat 25; Arjun 2-38, Aarav Singh 5-22, Swayam Shabadi 2-22).

CUP OF JOY...

Chethan Shivakumar

CHAMPIONS: Vimanapura boys celebrate after winning the U-13 State Sub-Junior Basketball Championship in Bengaluru on Friday

Karnataka go down

West Bengal handed Karnataka a 2-1 defeat in the Swami Vivekananda U-20 Men's National Football Championship in Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh on Saturday. Karnataka rallied to draw level 1-1 in the 65th minute through Nirumpam Gowda H. But Karnataka's efforts were undone by an own goal from Dhruv C in the 84th minute.
Result: West Bengal 2 (Tanbir Dey 39, Dhruv C 84-og) bt Karnataka 1 (Nirupam Gowda H 65). **On Monday:** Karnataka vs Odisha (7.30 am). TNN

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